

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

A trial questionnaire was designed and completed by 21 randomly selected hospitals, representing all states including both public and private hospitals from rural and metropolitan areas. After a number of adjustments the final version of the questionnaire was produced consisting of 14 sections with a total of 252 items. Questions are in forced choice form with some open-ended items, including a section for general comments (*refer* Appendix B).

Survey questionnaires were sent to all Australian public and private hospitals with five or more paediatric beds, as listed in the Hospitals & Health Services Yearbook, 1990.

It was requested that forms be completed by either the Director of Nursing, Nursing Unit Manger (Paediatric) or Clinical Nurse Consultant (Paediatric).

Not all items have been answered by every participant as some questions may not have been relevant to all hospitals. A number of questionnaire items were not included in the report because results indicated that the questions were ambiguous. There are a number of important issues that were either addressed briefly or not at all. Separate studies are needed to fully examine the standard of psychosocial care in other areas such as:

- ✦ Intensive Care Units
- ✦ Accident and Emergency
- ✦ Outpatients
- ✦ Day Surgery
- ✦ Admission and Discharge Procedures
- ✦ Disabled children
- ✦ The needs of other cultural groups
- ✦ Care by Parent Units
- ✦ Respite care

Respondents to the survey

AWCH greatly appreciates the responses of all the hospitals that participated in the survey.

310 hospitals (92.3%) responded and only 26 (7.7%) did not reply or declined involvement.

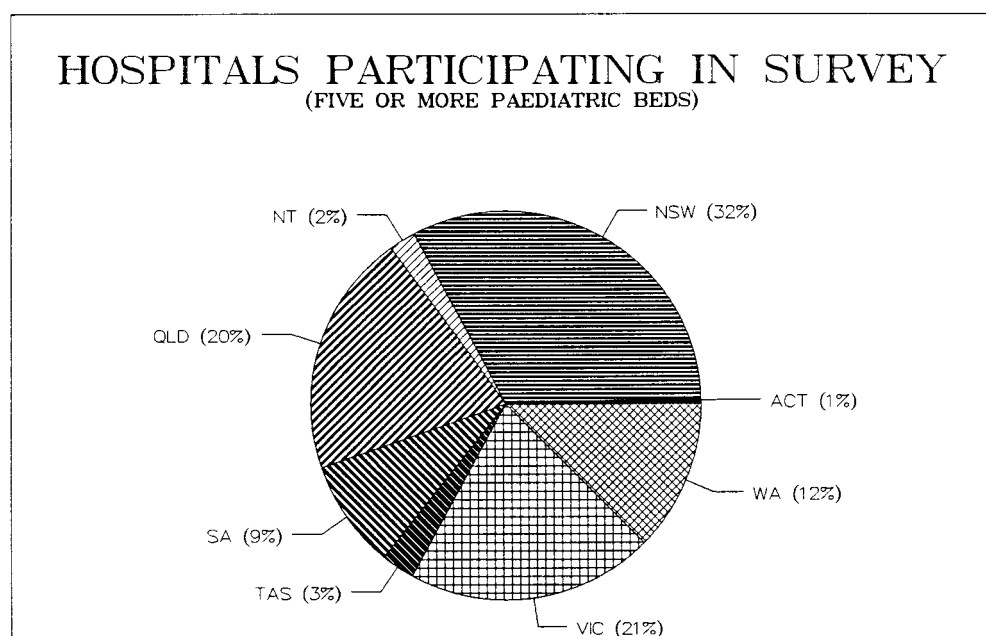
51 of the targeted hospitals (15.2%) were not included in the survey results as they reported less than 5 paediatric beds, the majority having 4. This possibly reflects the trend towards reducing the number of hospital beds since data for the 1990 Hospital Yearbook was compiled.

A further 6 respondents (1.8%) were Mothercraft Homes and their responses were not included in the analysis as many questionnaire items were not applicable to their situation.

The following report therefore represents an analysis of 253 hospitals, 75.3% of all hospitals contacted. The high response rate to the questionnaire may in itself point to the perceived importance of the issues addressed.

The distribution of the 253 respondents per state and territories as shown in **Graph 1** closely corresponds to the distribution of the Australian population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1989).

Graph 1



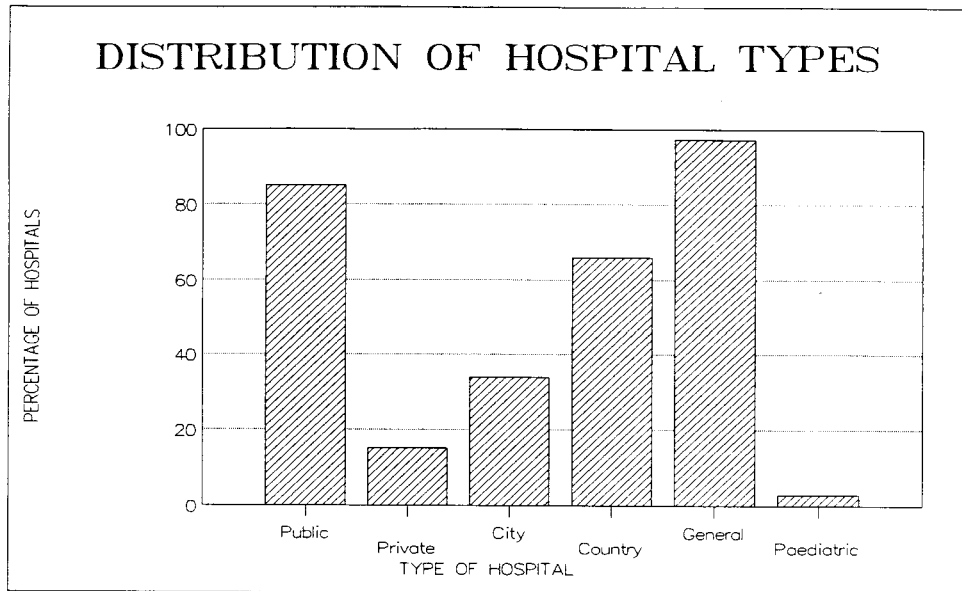
As shown in **Graph 2**, 85% of surveyed hospitals (N=215)* are public, 15% are private (N=38). The majority (N=167=66%) are located in country areas, whereas 34% (N=86) service city/metropolitan areas. There are 7 (2.8%) large specialized paediatric hospitals.

All private hospitals are general hospitals, with relatively small paediatric wards averaging 11 beds.

The distribution of hospitals according to number of paediatric beds is shown in **Graph 3**.

(*) *N = Number of respondents.*

Graph 2



Graph 3

