



# Media release

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **See and treat clinics**

A series of “see-and-treat” clinics held at Royal Perth Hospital in recent months has helped reduce the number of patients on the elective surgery waiting list.

In April 2006, Surgical Division initiated the co-ordination of Plastics Department, Theatre and Telstra Burns unit staff to deliver timely treatment to plastics patients requiring local anaesthetic procedures.

The initiative targeted patients waiting on the elective surgery waiting lists over 500 days and those waiting longer than 30 days in category 1.

Elective Surgery A/Area Project Co-ordinator for the South Metropolitan Health Service Yvonne Zardins said patients were admitted as day-patients, treated and observed by nursing staff following their procedures.

Refreshments were offered and discharge was progressed once the patient was comfortable to leave.

The consultant performing the treatments moved between two rooms allowing the local anaesthetic to take effect while he treated the other patient.

“Significant efficiencies were gained allowing an increase in the number of patients treated per session,” Yvonne said.

Patients were booked for follow-up plastic dressing clinic appointments upon discharge and provided with post-procedure care instructions.

“They were exceptionally pleased with the promptness of the service delivery, with many remarking on its efficiency and the hospitality of all staff involved.”

Other plastic surgeons from across the South Metropolitan Health Service have shown interest in the processes that have highlighted the efficiencies of performing local anaesthetic cases in a treatment room rather than in operating theatres.

“The success of this treatment model has given the impetus to push forward for a fully fledged “See and Treat” Clinic where patients are triaged from the Outpatient Referrals to identify those suitable for quick turnaround local anaesthetic procedures.”

These patients could be seen in the Clinic environment, have their procedure then and there, be discharged and never go on an elective surgery waitlist.

“The significance of this would not be lost on the patient who would only have to come to the hospital once and would not have to wait an unknown time for their procedure. “