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Brief for Noting

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SUBJECT:

Media inquiries - reportable assaults against staff in the Townsville

File Ref No:

Hospital and Health Service (Townsville HHS)

Issue(s)

1. On 30 and 31 January 2015, the Townsville Bulletin reported an alleged sexual assault at the ______ in _____ 2014 and allegations of reduced security staff at the campus.

2. The Townsville HHS provided two responses to the paper; the first on 29 January 2015 after checking staff and security records for a 'savage sexual assault', as referenced by the Townsville Bulletin, advising that no such assault had been recorded. Following the first story the HHS received a report of a patient-related incident involving a staff member of

3. A second, clarifying statement was then issued on 30 January 2015. The staff member had reported that an ______ patient, having blood taken, allegedly inappropriately touched ____ on the upper part of ____ body.

4. The statements also confirmed no reductions in separity staff at the

ABC radio broadcast responses to the questions raised in January without notice this morning, 25 February 2015. This has prompted further questions from other media including WIN television and the Townsville Bulletin which have inquired about the incidence of assaults against staff in the Townsville HHS.

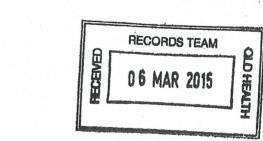
Background

6. In 2012, there were 265 reported incidents of physical assault and 185 reported incidents of verbal assault across the hospital and health service.

7. In 2013, the Townsville HHS began a work program to educate staff, visitors and patients, encourage reporting, address repeated incidents with particular patients and improve polices and processes to ensure staff are safe and protected at work.

8. This led to an increase in reports in 2013 to 396 incidents of physical assault and 242 incidents of verbal assault.

9. In 2014 the number of physical assaults decreased to 339 and verbal assaults to 127.



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Author Irene Jacovos	Julia Squire	Julia Squire
Senior Liaison Officer	Chief Executive	Chief Executive
Office of the Chief Executive	Townsville Hospital and	
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26 February 2015	26 February 2015	26 February 2015

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