**Name:** Queensland Past and Present: 100 Years of Statistics, 1896–1996

**Section name:** Chapter 8, Health, Endnotes, Section 7

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benefits in Queensland increased from $928,000 in 1950–51 to $24.1m in 1970–71. In the 1990s the Commonwealth Government provides for benefits on a comprehensive range of drugs and medicines. In 1995–96 there were 22.9 million benefit prescriptions in Queensland with a net value of $402.1m. Nearly three-quarters of this amount ($295.9m) was for holders of concessional cards.

**SUMMARY**

The Health Department has grown from a small establishment with about half its staff comprising a rat gang to a large department responsible for all aspects of health. Hospitals have changed from being undesirable places to be when sick to institutions with millions of dollars of equipment and facilities to treat thousands of patients daily.

In 1896 the main diseases were tuberculosis and diarrhoea while various epidemics causing hundreds, sometimes thousands, of deaths were frequent. Better sanitation and advancements in medical science resulted in the virtual elimination of many contagious diseases. The main diseases in 1996 were heart disease and cancer. Due largely to improvements in health, life expectancy at birth increased by about 25 years between 1896 and 1996.

Medical and hospital benefits schemes ensure that all persons, regardless of income or state of health, have access to health services and facilities.

**Endnotes**

15. Registrar-General, *Statistics of Queensland, 1901*. 274
22. Lawson, p. 146; Patrick, p. 375.
23. Patrick, p. 75.
31. Patrick, p. 357.
34. Patrick, pp. 79–80.
36. Patrick, p. 133.
42. Patrick, p. 58; Lawson, p. 133.
46. Patrick, p. 112.
50. Patrick, p. 214.
52. Patrick, p. 221.
55. Patrick, p. 243
56. Patrick, p. 233.
57. Patrick, p. 238.
60. Patrick, pp. 254–5.
64. Patrick, p. 205.
66. Patrick, p. 207.
68. Queensland Health, unpublished data.
70. Lancaster & Gordon, p. 315.