

E. Comparison with other jurisdictions

In 2019–20, none of the Australian states or territories met their performance target for the four-hour emergency length of stay (ELOS—length of time people spend in emergency departments before being admitted to hospital or discharged).

As shown in Figure E1, while Queensland had the best ELOS performance for patients who were admitted to hospital (admitted ELOS performance), its overall ELOS performance of 70.8 per cent (which included discharged ELOS performance) was third in Australia.

Figure E1
ELOS performance by state and territory for 2019–20

State or territory	Admitted ELOS performance	Overall ELOS performance	Overall ELOS performance target
Queensland	54.3%	70.8%	80%
New South Wales	40.0%	71.3%	81%
Australian Capital Territory	34.9%	57.6%	90%
Victoria	48.2%	64.9%	75%
South Australia	43.3%	62.4%	90%
Tasmania	26.7%	60.0%	80%
Western Australia	52.1%	75.4%	90%
Northern Territory	35.6%	67.1%	78%
Australia-wide	46.3%	69.2%	–

Note: Australia-wide does not have an overall ELOS performance target, as these targets are set at a state or territory level.

Source: Queensland Audit Office from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare emergency department care 2019–20 data (actual figures) and relevant annual reports, monthly reports, or service delivery statements 2019–20 (target figures).

As shown in Figure E2, in 2019–20 none of the jurisdictions met their performance target for patient off stretcher time (POST—which measures how long it takes for a patient to be transferred from an ambulance stretcher to the care of an emergency department). POST performance may not be comparable across all jurisdictions due to differing performance measures and data collection methods.

Figure E2
POST performance by state for 2019–20

State	Performance measures for POST	POST performance target	POST performance actual
Queensland	30 minutes	90%	76.1% state-wide 73.15% top 26 hospitals
New South Wales	30 minutes	90%	88.33%
Victoria	40 minutes	90%	77.8%
South Australia	30 minutes	90%	63.8%
Tasmania	Two measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes • 30 minutes 	85%	15 minutes: 68.8%–92.7% 30 minutes: 75.6%–96.2%

Note: Tasmania reports performance separately for each of its four major hospitals.

Source: Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania: Department of Health annual reports 2019–20; New South Wales: Bureau of Health Information Healthcare quarterly reports 2019–20.

