



Hygiene campaign for MDHS

Following the success of an infection control project at Bendigo Health, Maryborough and District Health Service will benefit from the project.

Bendigo Health infection prevention and control team has been leading the way in implementing strategies and new approaches to tackling hospital acquired infections in patients.

Now, Bendigo Health is co-ordinating the roll out of a hand hygiene campaign into 16 hospitals in the Loddon Mallee region.

Maryborough's Health Service will launch the project on July 6.

In 2004, an alcoholic hand rub was introduced into all clinical areas of Bendigo Health, providing a much

needed alternative to traditional soap and water hand washing.

Bendigo Health was one of six hospitals (two regional and four metropolitan) chosen by the Victorian Quality Control (VQC) to take part in the pilot scheme.

The success at each of the six pilot hospitals in improving hand hygiene compliance and reducing infections has led to the launch of a Victorian wide rollout of the program sponsored by the VQC, the Victorian Minister for Health allocating a further \$2.3 million of funding to support the statewide roll out of the project this year.

Since the introduction of an alcoholic hand rub on the end of each bed, hand hygiene is now easier, making hospitals safer.