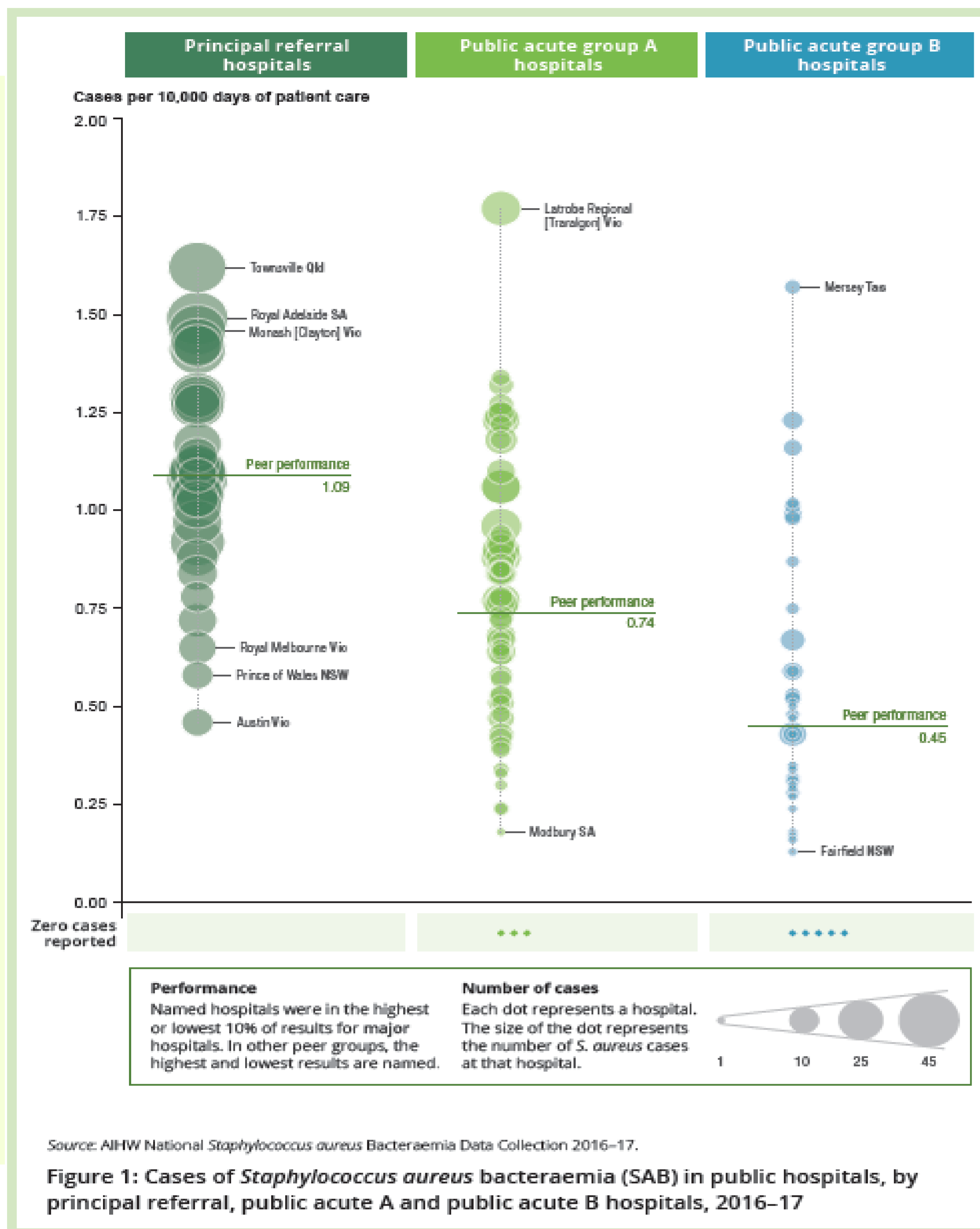


# Hand Hygiene – Brace Yourselves

Janine Carrucan<sup>1</sup> Judy Morton<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Townsville Hospital and Health Service



## 1. What was the issue?

- The Townsville Hospital and Health service reported the highest *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections (SABs) rate in Australia 2016-2017.
- Annual Hand Hygiene mandatory training rates were consistently under the target of 90%

## 2. What were our objectives?

- To reduce the number of preventable bloodstream in infections in particular SABs
- To improve annual hand hygiene training rates for the workforce.
- To raise awareness of the importance of hand hygiene
- To rebrand the hand hygiene program to include visitors and patients.

## 3. How did we tackle the problem?

Rebranded the hand hygiene program by designing and installing:

- Floor stickers at all main entrances to the hospitals
- Full length elevator stickers at patient lifts
- AHBR dispenser signage redesigned.
- Designed a new hand hygiene training video for the workforce.
- Implemented escalated SAB Case Reviews with clinical teams following each SAB.
- Reviewed management of invasive devices which included implementation of a standardised IV starter pack for all PIVC insertions.

## 4. What were the results?

- Hand hygiene training rates have increased since the relaunch.
- Created an operational workload issue due to the increased requirement to restock dispensers particularly outside the lifts.
- Increased engagement with community partners to enable them to advocate for hand hygiene



## 5. What next?

- Continue to focus on hand hygiene education and auditing with an emphasis on real time feedback to healthcare workers
- Conduct a survey of staff to see if the relaunch has changed their behaviour in relation to hand hygiene.
- Continue to work to reduce the numbers of HAI bloodstream infections.



SAB rates have reduced from 1.62/10,000 to 0.89/10,000.