

Redefining fracture management: a physiotherapy-led clinic

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This project evaluated the outcomes of an innovative **physiotherapy-led fracture clinic (PLFC)** within the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Physiotherapy Outpatient Department. The PLFC targeted appropriate management for 313 patients (September 2024-October 2025) with acute injuries deemed to have low likelihood of requiring orthopaedic input.

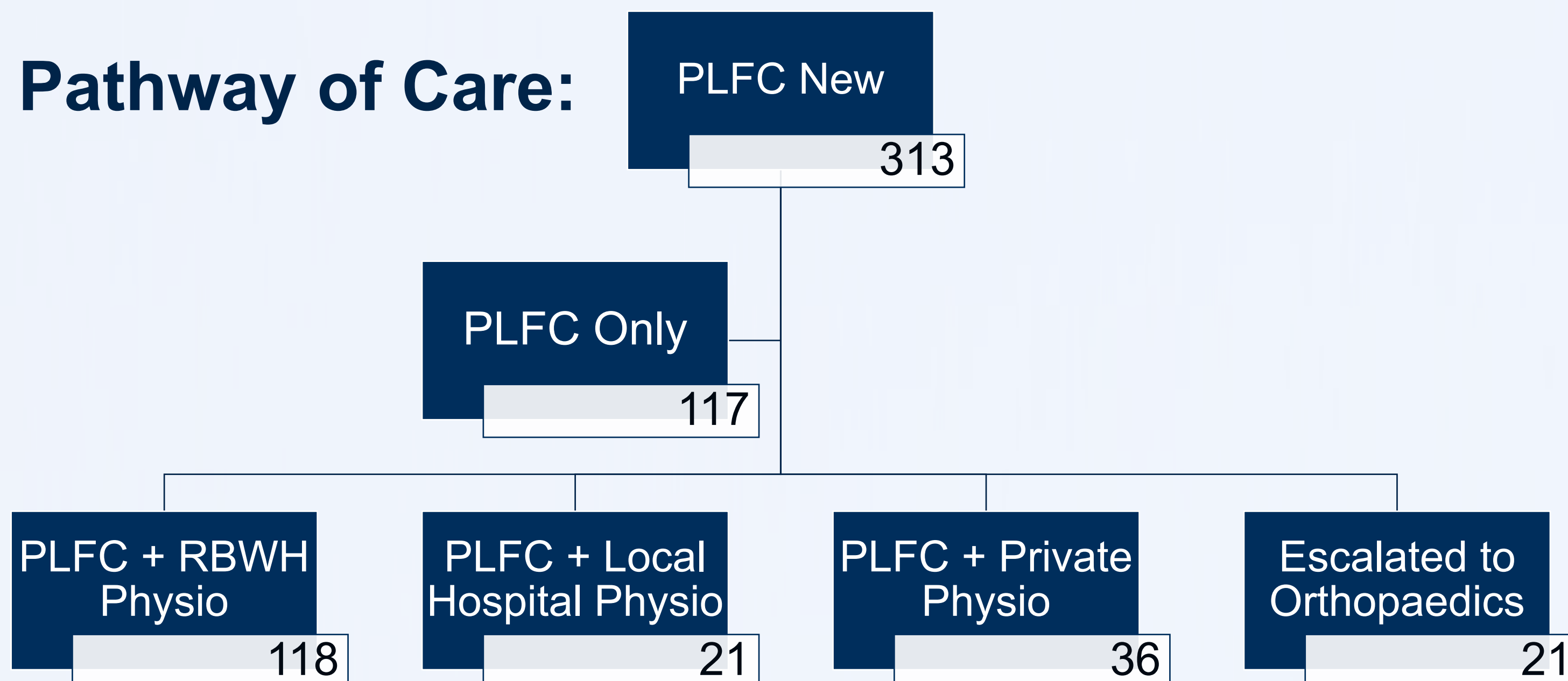
The RBWH Specialist Orthopaedic Fracture Clinic is a high-volume outpatient service managing both simple and complex orthopaedic conditions for local and statewide patients. Over 300 individuals are reviewed by this orthopaedic clinic weekly.

A **physiotherapist-led fracture clinic** was implemented at RBWH in September 2024. The aim of the clinic was to alleviate specialist orthopaedic fracture clinic demand by providing efficient access to appropriate non-surgical care and reduce appointment burden for patients.

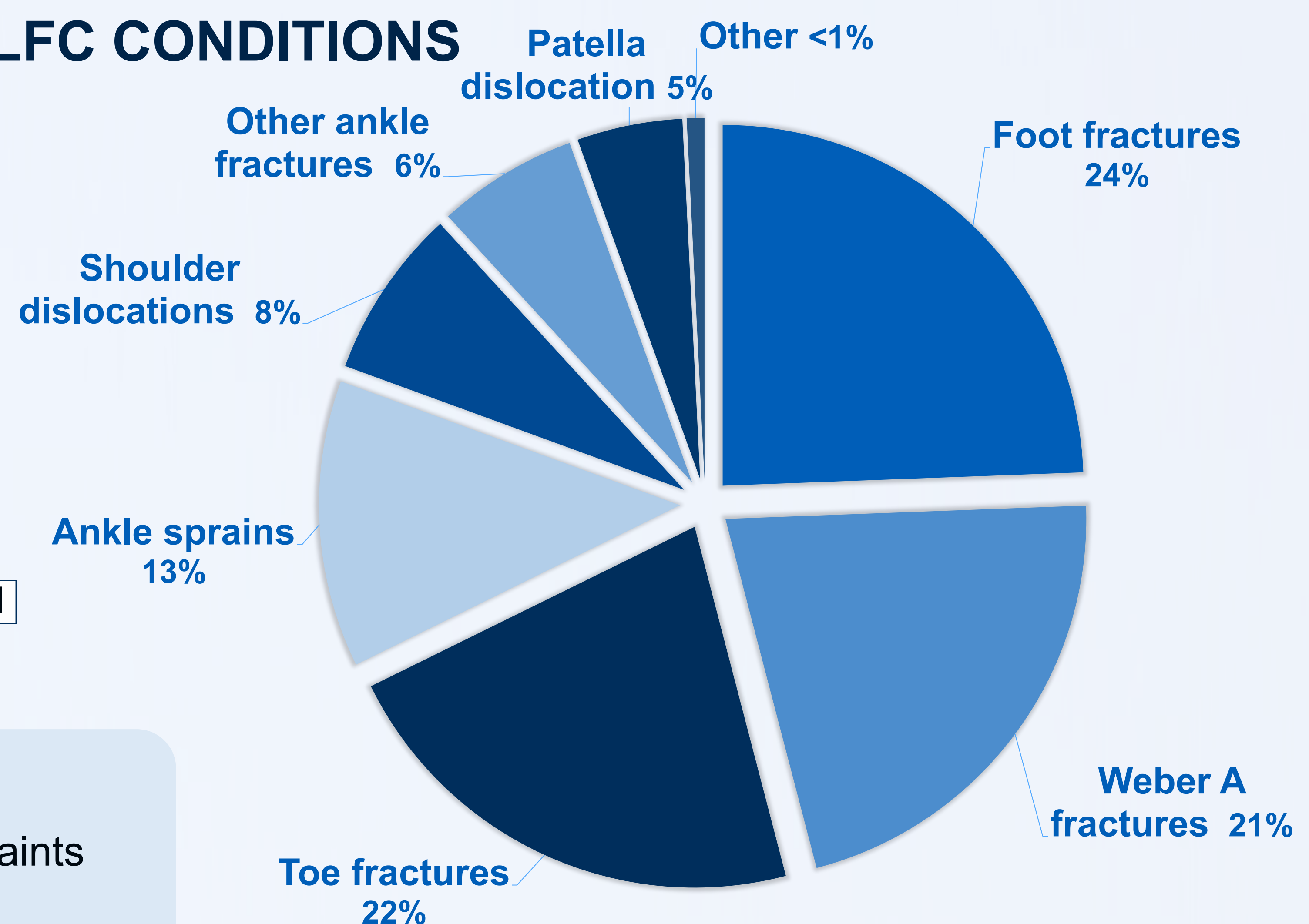
Service Review Objectives

Evaluate safety of the PLFC	Determine clinical effectiveness of the PLFC	Assess timeliness and access of care	Evaluate cost-effectiveness	Examine patient-centred and equitable care outcomes
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Pathway of Care:



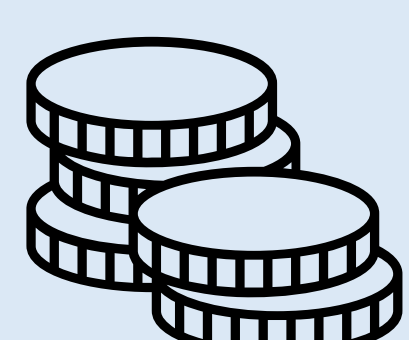
PLFC CONDITIONS



Outcomes:

No adverse events or complaints

Patient Feedback:



\$37,000 cost saving to healthcare system



7% escalated for Orthopaedic input

"Great service. Very helpful staff"

"Very good service. Thank you"



82% of patients attended.
17 days average wait time
1.1 appointments averaged



3% of patients identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
17% FTA- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (compared to 7% of non-Indigenous patients)
27% telehealth appointments

"Excellent. Pleased with less waiting and more personal care than I have experienced at the traditional fracture clinic. Amazing service on the day as well"

The physiotherapy-led fracture clinic provides a **safe, efficient, and scalable** model that enhances patient outcomes, optimises resource use, and supports sustainable orthopaedic service delivery.

References

Queensland Health HEALTH32 Consumer Safety and Quality Strategy 2032. Available at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/strategic-direction/plans/consumer-safety-and-quality-strategy-2032>. Accessed 26/02/2026.

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