

**19 APR 2011**Office of the **Minister for Health**

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter dated 24 March 2011, regarding Petition Number 1605-10, tabled in Parliament on 23 March 2011. The petition requests the provision of funding for the establishment of a public / community hospital in Tin Can Bay to service the Cooloola Coast region and its many visitors.

In 2010, Gympie Hospital, which is approximately 60km from Tin Can Bay, provided an average of 6.5 beds per night for patients in the Cooloola Coast catchment area. This volume of patients would not allow for a safe and sustainable stand alone facility at Tin Can Bay let alone for the required services for such a facility to be maintained.

Queensland Health is committed to providing health services to the Cooloola Coast region. The Sunshine Coast Health Service District (SCHSD) currently provides a range of services to the region including:

- Universal Post Natal Contact Service (commenced March 2011);
- Allied health home visiting service – dietetics, social work, occupational therapy, physiotherapy;
- Podiatry services from the GP practice;
- Mobile dental clinics for schools;
- Outsourced arrangements with private dentists to deliver public dental services in Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach;
- Mental health home visiting service;
- Adult community health outreach clinics and home visiting service;
- Child health open plan clinic weekly at Tin Can Bay, an outreach clinic to Rainbow Beach and home visiting service;
- Mobile breast screening service;
- Home and Aged Care (HACC) visits; and
- Plans for a shared care complex clinic in diabetes in conjunction with 2 local GPs which will commence in June 2011.

The SCHSD is committed to continue improving the outreach services it provides to residents in this area.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoff Wilson".

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health