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

## Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letters regarding petition numbers 1872-12 and 1782-11 tabled in Parliament on 16 February and 17 February respectively, in relation to Childers Hospital. As these petitions are identical in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The Childers community have access to high quality medical care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Childers Hospital is well staffed with three doctors employed full time with treating and admitting rights. Two local General Practitioners also have admitting rights for private patients.

Continuous medical care is available at the hospital, with a minimum of two doctors available to attend the hospital at any time. When Medical staff are not conducting regular day time business such as ward rounds, clinics, etc they share the after hours on-call responsibility.

This model is consistent across Queensland for rural health facilities.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

LAWBENCE SPRINGBORG MP

Minister for Health