



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

6 SEP 2017

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2793-17, tabled in Parliament on 9 August 2017, in relation to the 'Caloundra Hospital Urgent Care Centre'.

The Minor Injury and Illness Clinic (MIIC) operates at the previous site of the Caloundra Hospital Emergency Department, which was itself upgraded and relocated in March 2017 to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) in the nearby suburb of Birtinya.

I am advised that approximately 55 percent of the total number of people who presented to the Caloundra Hospital Emergency Department in 2015-16 were within the least serious clinical categories, many suffering from minor injuries and illnesses.

The best care for patients with minor injuries and illness is to attend their regular general practitioner (GP). However, given that some people do not have a GP, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service has established the walk-in, GP-led MIIC, which operates from 9am to 9pm seven days a week at Caloundra Hospital to give residents and visitors another non-emergency option. This model has been developed in consultation with GPs within the Caloundra area.

Any emergency situation is best managed by the state-of-the-art facilities now available at the SCUH and the site, approximately 8km away from the Caloundra Hospital, is readily accessible by Caloundra residents, including via the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). This is also the case if a patient presents to their GP, or in fact to the MIIC, and a serious condition is identified, such as a cardiac event. The GP would make immediate arrangements for QAS transfer of the patient to an appropriate treating hospital.

The decision to transfer the emergency department at Caloundra Hospital to the \$1.87 billion SCUH and to establish a GP led service at Caloundra was first made in April 2010. That decision was not changed during the term of the Newman Government. That decision was also made on the advice of specialist emergency department doctors and health planners.

Opening Hours for the clinic were established by the Hospital and Health Service after careful consideration of historic patient presentations. The Palaszczuk Government supports decision making of this type being made by local Hospital and Health Services in response to local needs.

I am advised that this arrangement presents the safest, and therefore the best outcome for the residents of Caloundra.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick', with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**