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MO: H/07/06501

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 27 August 2007 to the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Health, regarding Petition No. 882-07 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

I am advised that the Department has now completed its review of the Flying Specialist Services, which included a review of the Flying Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (FOG) based in Roma. The review identified significant opportunities to improve not only these services, but other services to rural Queenslanders. The review also identified the complex nature of providing specialist services to rural and remote locations.

To ensure the best possible services are available to rural communities, Queensland Health will engage an external consultant to redesign Flying Specialist Services in Queensland. A credible consultant with expertise in rural health services will be appointed to design the best possible model of service delivery to meet the needs of rural Queenslanders. I would like to assure you that while this new service is being designed all current services will continue as they are. It is my pleasure to advise you that a permanent FOG, Dr Alison Shearer, commenced in the position on Monday, 15 October and subsequently all positions in the flying specialist service are now filled, allowing the service to meet its obligations to rural Queensland. Given the current international medical shortages this is extremely positive for Queensland.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you about this matter, Ms Anita Hansen, Rural Health Coordinator, Southern Area Health Service, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 3895 3207.

Yours sincerely

**KAREN STRUTHERS MP**  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health