



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services

19 SEP 2018

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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 letter regarding petitions 2901-18, 2918-18 and 2984-18, tabled in Parliament on 21 August 2018, in relation to a Pain Management Specialist at Bundaberg Hospital. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to all petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

Dr Martin Carter provided a Persistent Pain Management Specialist Service to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service via the Specialist Outpatients Department at Bundaberg Hospital until September 2016, when he retired.

Within Queensland Health, a number of Hospital and Health Services (HHS) provide persistent pain management services across a regional network. These sites are resourced to provide comprehensive, multi-disciplinary persistent pain teams to ensure the highest possible care is available to patients with chronic pain.

The Sunshine Coast HHS provides a chronic pain service as a "hub" for a geographic area which includes the Wide Bay region. The service became available to Wide Bay patients before Dr Carter retired and is a best practice, evidence-based, multidisciplinary model of care focusing on all aspects of pain management. The pain management service at Nambour Hospital also includes psychology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.

Prior to Dr Carter's retirement, the Wide Bay HHS worked with local and rural general practitioners to transition patients to the new model of care provided by the Sunshine Coast HHS. Some elements of the Sunshine Coast HHS Persistent Pain Service are provided by telehealth, reducing the number of face-to-face appointments that patients are required to attend in person. Telehealth clinics are conducted bi-monthly and are supported by local nursing staff in Bundaberg.

Patients are encouraged to attend their general practitioner if their condition deteriorates or their pain becomes unmanageable between their scheduled appointments. Wide Bay residents travelling to the Sunshine Coast to access the Persistent Pain Service may be eligible for support via the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services