



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 petitions 2749-17 and 2795-17 tabled in Parliament on 8 and 9 August 2017 respectively, in relation to a new hospital for Coomera. As these petitions are similar 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.

Planning for future health care delivery is an important part of the work of Health and Hospital Services and Boards, and the Department of Health (the Department).

Planning for new or expanded services goes through a number of phases, and there are many factors to consider before investment decisions are made. This work ensures we deliver the right services to the right people at the right time.

Gold Coast residents have benefited from a \$107.3 million health funding boost to its Hospital and Health Service. This represents an 8.4% increase over the previous year's allocation, as part of the recent State Budget 2017-2018. This will provide additional emergency department and paediatric beds; a new older persons mental health unit; improved access to gastrointestinal endoscopy services; and funding to meet growth in emergency department presentations, outpatient appointments and surgical procedures.

Significant investments on the Gold Coast in 2017-2018 include:

- \$6.2 million to reduce specialist outpatient long waits including a focus on patients waiting for an Ear Nose and Throat appointment;
- \$5.9 million to deliver additional gastrointestinal endoscopies to meet the growth in demand associated with the national bowel screening program;
- \$4.6 million for the new Lavender Mother and Infant Inpatient Unit (4 beds);
- \$3.0 million to support the fourth and final year of the Integrated Care pilot program;
- \$2.0 million winter beds funding to assist with increases in emergency department presentations over the winter period; and
- \$2.0 million recurrent funding to commission an older persons bed unit.

The Budget also provides funding to improve mental health services, which includes of the refurbishment of adolescent day program spaces on the Gold Coast.

The Government is committed to providing the quality health care that people need and deserve, as close to home as possible.

Since coming to office, an additional 152 doctors and 650 nurses have been employed by the Gold Coast HHS.

As at the end of July 2017, Gold Coast HHS, in line with the National Elective Surgery Targets, had no patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for their elective surgery procedure. The number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment has fallen by 19.5% since the change of government, despite an 8.9% increase in referrals.

These improvements are due to the hard work of our dedicated clinicians, support staff and allied health professionals and because of the investment decisions of the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services