



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

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231

- 3 JAN 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petitions numbered 3172-19, 3247-19 and 3250-19 tabled in Parliament on 26 and 27 November 2019, in relation to Gladstone Hospital upgrades. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding jointly to the petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

I acknowledge the passion of the Gladstone community in petitioning for greater capital investment at the Gladstone Hospital and I understand the desire to have more medical services delivered closer to home, reducing the need to travel for care.

Since January 2015, there has been significant investment and improvement at Gladstone Hospital. The number of tenured doctors has increased by almost 200 per cent, supporting a significant growth in staffing across the facility. The Queensland Government's capital funding at Gladstone Hospital is unprecedented and the volume of care delivered to the Gladstone community has rapidly increased to meet growing demand.

Planning for future health care delivery is an important body of work for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board and goes through multiple phases to ensure the people of Gladstone and the wider Central Queensland region receive the right health care into the future.

Through its strategic asset planning processes the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service has identified the need for a staged approach to future investment at Gladstone Hospital, to augment the \$42 million investment in the new Emergency Department which is currently under construction.

This strategic planning has identified a need for expanded and upgraded theatres, more hospital beds, and mental health inpatient services, as requested in the petition. In addition, planning is progressing on improvements to bring the Gladstone Hospital to a Clinical Services Capability Framework Level Four service as soon as it is safe and sustainable to do so. These priorities will be considered through existing planning and funding processes.

The Government is committed to providing the best care possible to the people of Gladstone, and carefully planning further investments will ensure additional services are both safe and sustainable.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', is positioned above the printed name.

STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services