



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland  
Government

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Deputy Premier  
Minister for Health

25 February 2010

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

Email: [TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter dated 25 November 2009, regarding the petition received by the Legislative Assembly No. 1349-09.

The petition draws attention to the lack of a CT scanner and ultrasound facility at Atherton Hospital. Firstly I am pleased to inform you that the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District has secured a 16-slice CT scanner for Atherton Hospital. In order to install this equipment, significant capital works are required. These works are planned to be completed by the middle of 2010.

In relation to the lack of an ultrasound machine at Atherton Hospital I can confirm that the hospital does in fact undertake basic ultrasounds and this machine is operated by accredited medical staff. Complex ultrasounds are carried out by sonographers at Cairns Diagnostic Imaging in Atherton. Atherton Hospital has a full-time radiographer.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Mr Scott Pickard, Manager Executive Services and Planning, Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 4080 9804.

Yours sincerely

**PAUL LUCAS**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Health**

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