



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

12 JUL 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2946-18, tabled in Parliament on 12 June 2018, in relation to community health nursing services for the Kilkivan and Goomeri regions.

Nursing services such as wound management and dressings fall within the Medicare system.

I am advised the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) currently provides home visiting and telehealth services for eligible residents through its community services. As an interim measure in response to recent community concerns about the availability of nursing services, a Nurse Navigator commenced twice fortnightly visits on 6 June 2018, to support the general practitioner (GP) and further evaluate the needs of the community.

A range of other non-government providers deliver health and support services in this region through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. This is one consolidated programme that provides entry-level home support for older people who need assistance to keep living independently at home and in their community.

The Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) is committed to working in collaboration with the SCHHS to further explore community needs.

The PHN and SCHHS jointly held a Kilkivan and Goomeri Community Health Forum on 21 June 2018, which was attended by more than 60 locals. The SCHHS, along with the PHN and several non-government organisations, were able to provide an overview of the services that are provided to the local community, some of which the community were not aware of. The community responded very positively to the forum and expressed a need for more coverage by a GP. The PHN will continue to work with the community to enhance services.

The SCHHS, through its collaboration with the PHN, will work closely with the community to support their efforts in creating a sustainable, locally accredited primary care service which meets their identified needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services