



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Health and  
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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 petition number 2882-18, tabled in Parliament on 1 May 2018, in relation to Nambour Hospital Birthing Unit reinstatement.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service provides public maternity and birthing services to all residents of the Sunshine Coast region.

The provision of a more comprehensive service at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) provides many benefits to women. As a tertiary hospital, the SCUH enables care for women with higher risk pregnancies and deliveries. This means women are able to remain closer to their homes and their support networks instead of having to travel to Brisbane for this level of care.

The new purpose built maternity service at SCUH has improved features to better meet the needs of Sunshine Coast families, such as the capacity for fathers to stay overnight and single rooms.

While the relocation of maternity services to SCUH means some mothers may need to travel further to give birth, many will similarly now have shorter distances to travel.

Health service planning principles recommend against fragmentation of specialised services between two sites 30 minutes apart. This is based on the expected number of patients and the patient numbers needed to ensure safe and sustainable services.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**