



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

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

Deputy Premier
Minister for Health

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter dated 15 September 2010, regarding Petition No.1476-10. The Petition requests the Legislative Assembly of Queensland introduce a midwife based model of care program in the Beaudesert Hospital.

As the petitioners would be aware, the Bligh Government is committed to increasing maternity services across Queensland. As part of the 2009 election, the Government committed to increase maternity services across a range of centres, including service enhancements of existing antenatal clinics in Logan-Jimboomba-Beaudesert. These service enhancements have and will provide additional antenatal and postnatal care for women in the community and outreach to outlying communities.

A continuity of care model (midwifery group practice) commenced in May 2010 at Beaudesert Hospital, for women birthing after July 2010. This model involves the delivery of antenatal and postnatal services provided by the same midwife, to women in the Beaudesert community with birthing services at Logan Hospital. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worker is assisting in supporting this initiative.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that birthing services are returned to Beaudesert under a midwifery model of care and Queensland Health is currently giving consideration to the safest and most appropriate schedule and manner in which primary birthing services at Beaudesert Hospital may be introduced for women not expected to have birthing complications.

As I am sure the community will appreciate, safety remains a key determinant of the timing and method of re-introducing birthing services.

The Government remains committed to the provision of maternity services at the Beaudesert Hospital, and I look forward to continuing to work with the community in delivering increased choices for prospective mothers in terms of birthing options in the Beaudesert area.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health

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