

**8 - APR 2011**

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 dated 15 March 2011, regarding Petition Number 1636-11, tabled in Parliament on 9 March 2011.

The Government fully supports palliative care as an integral part of its health care and will continue to financially support the important service that palliative care provides to patients and their families.

As a result of strong representations from Julie Attwood MP, Member for Mt Ommaney, the Deputy Premier and former Minister for Health confirmed in early January 2011, that the existing contract for palliative care beds at Canossa Private Hospital will remain in place at least until the new 10 bed dedicated Palliative Care Unit being built at the Queen Elizabeth II (QELI) Jubilee Hospital is open. Continuation of existing services via the Canossa Private Hospital whilst this new unit is built at QELI will ensure high standards of palliative care services continue to be available for patients in the Brisbane South Metropolitan Area.

The new unit at the QELI Hospital, scheduled to open in late 2011, will also enable continuation of the highly recognised palliative care medical registrar training program as well as providing a sustainable Queensland Health palliative care workforce into the future.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health