



Hon Geoff Wilson
Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Health

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 1646-11, tabled in Parliament on 9 March 2011, concerning chemotherapy services at Atherton Hospital.

I am advised that there are no plans to reduce or phase out chemotherapy services at the Atherton Hospital.

Bed capacity and services were temporarily reduced during the recent capital works refurbishments within the medical, maternity and surgical wards which may have contributed to the perception of reduced chemotherapy treatment services. I am advised services recommenced in full on 29 September 2010.

Queensland Health, through its North Queensland Cancer Services Network, has developed a new educational framework to develop a consistent standard of care across Far North Queensland. These educational changes are necessary for service alignment and will not affect chemotherapy treatment services in Atherton.

Patients who request to have chemotherapy in Atherton Hospital can receive their treatment at the Atherton Hospital, provided it is within the Hospital's current service capability framework.

The provision of safe cancer services at Atherton Hospital remains a priority for the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health

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