5 APR 2018

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 2884-18, tabled in Parliament on 6 March 2018, in relation to respite services for the elderly at Cooktown.

The responsibility for the operation of the aged care system, including the provision of respite services in Australia, rests with the Commonwealth Government. I have forwarded a copy of the petition to the Honourable Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Commonwealth Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, for consideration. I have also provided a copy to the Honourable Warren Entsch MP, Federal Member for Leichhardt, for his information.

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS) Service Plan 2016-2026, prepared in 2015, examined health service needs in the region. The Plan identified that more aged care beds were needed in the region to meet the needs of local residents.

I am advised that TCHHS is progressing infrastructure planning for the Cooktown Hospital and has commenced a master planning project to forecast future community needs to 2040. Contemporary models of dementia friendly service delivery for elderly or disabled people with residential care needs will be an integral part of the planning process.

Staff from the Cooktown General Practice Group, Commonwealth Government and the community nurse attended a multi-disciplinary meeting recently, and regularly monitor the need for respite care and care awaiting placement. TCHHS will continue to work to provide aged care services that meet community needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services