



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to petition number 3818-22, tabled in Parliament on 29 November 2022, requesting that a renal dialysis service be established at the Mareeba Hospital.

The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (HHS) and the Department of Health undertake regular service planning to ensure services are planned and developed in a safe and sustainable way.

As part of this process, the Cairns and Hinterland HHS continually monitors renal dialysis demand across all locations within its region and incorporates this into its clinical service planning.

The Cairns and Hinterland HHS's Clinical Services Plan, which is currently under development, will have a large focus on chronic kidney disease with consideration given to where services are located.

Historically, the number of patients on hospital-based dialysis in the Mareeba area has not supported the number of patients required for a dedicated dialysis service at the Mareeba Hospital.

Cairns and Hinterland HHS staff liaise with patients on a case-by-case basis, which includes assisting them work through transport options for those patients who require assistance with travel.

Where appropriate, home-based dialysis is the preferred treatment, providing patients with dialysis in the comfort of their own homes, at their own convenience. This includes the ability to do their dialysis outside of normal business hours, so patients can go about their daily lives.

It is also important to focus on preventing and slowing down the progression of chronic kidney disease, through patient education and other programs to help prevent kidney failure.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

YVETTE D'ATH MP
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