MRS SCOTT asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS):

QUESTION:

What increase has been experienced at Logan Hospital in the incidence of diabetes over the last five years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Woodridge for her question.

Diabetes is a chronic illness that can dramatically affect quality of life and reduced life expectancy.

The Bligh Government has prioritised the prevention of chronic disease, many of which are largely preventable and place a burden on our health system. In September 2008, the Government released *Towards Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* as its vision for Queensland's future, which includes the ambitious target to cut by one-third obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure and a challenge to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people.

To achieve these targets Queensland Health is investing over $25 million each year in the prevention of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung conditions and kidney diseases through tobacco control and promoting healthy eating, physical activity and healthy weight. This investment includes the employment of over 200 new health staff to focus on prevention. Specific initiatives include the Go for 2&5 fruit and vegetable campaign, which has already increased consumption of fruit and vegetables in Queensland by 0.7 serves per person per day, the Lighten Up to a Healthy Lifestyle program, the Eat Well Be Active campaign; the Smart Moves strategy to increase physical activity and the Smart Choices Healthy Food and Drink Strategy in Queensland schools; and the Dark Side of Tanning Campaign to reduce unsafe sun exposure.

Queensland Health has been working together with other Government agencies to implement over 100 nutrition and physical activity initiatives under the Eat Well Be Active – Healthy Kids for Life Action Plan 2005-2008, which was the first whole-of-government action plan to promote healthy weight in children and young people. These collective efforts in Queensland appear to be having some positive effects as our studies show that the rate of measured overweight and obesity for Queensland adults is now approximately 7% less, and rate for Queensland children is now 2-3% less, than rates from other States with comparable data.

Successful nutrition and physical activity promotion initiatives will be expanded under the 2009-10 Q2 Chronic Disease Target Delivery Plan.

About one million Australians are currently affected by diabetes and according to the *Chief Health Officer Report 2009*, it is expected that by 2031 diabetes will affect 3.3 million of us.
The report also states that in the 10 year period between 2006 and 2016, the total burden of disease in Queensland due to Type 2 Diabetes is projected to increase by 55% and treatment for the disease at Logan Hospital is showing similar increases.

There has been a 43% increase in the number of patients presenting at the Logan Hospital for diabetes-related treatment when comparing the periods from 2004-05, when 197 patients were treated, to 2008-09 when 282 patients were treated.

This trend is also reflected in the number of episodes, or visits, for diabetes-related treatment with a 47% increase when comparing the periods from 2004-05, 257 visits, to 2008-09 with 377 visits.

To address the treatment needs of people in the area, there is the Logan-Beaudesert Diabetes Service, which is an integrated multidisciplinary team that provides assessment, treatment and evaluation for adults with diabetes and impaired glucose tolerance. The Diabetes Service is offered from a number of sites in the vicinity of the Honourable member’s electorate, including the Logan Hospital, Beaudesert Hospital, Logan Central Community Health Centre and Beenleigh Community Health Centre.

Diabetes management and education is provided in various individual and group settings including inpatient, outpatient, community health centres and venues. Home visits are also offered. Services provided include:

- Ambulatory Insulin Stabilisation Program, in partnership with local general practitioners.
- Podiatry Clinic for high-risk diabetic feet including wound management and orthotics.
- Professional support to community-based diabetes support groups located at Beenleigh, Logan Central and Beaudesert.
- Gestational diabetes clinics.
- One-to-one assistance for general practitioners and practice nurses to assist with the primary care of patients.
- Continuous Glucose Monitoring Service.
- Blood Glucose Meter loan program.

The Logan-Beaudesert Diabetes Service team also works closely with other local Queensland Health clinicians including Indigenous Health Workers and the Mental Health Service.

In addition, a new service is also expected to come online within the next month at the Browns Plains Community Health facility. This will ensure people with diabetes living closer to the Browns Plains area will have easier access to the best care and support available.