

Friday 17th December, 2021

Aaron Harper MP
Chair of the Health and Environment Committee
Via email: hec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair,

RE: Submission to the Inquiry into the Provision of Primary, Allied and Private Health Care, Aged Care and NDIS Care Services and its Impact on the Queensland Public Health System

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Health and Environment Committee's (HEC) Inquiry into the Provision of Primary, Allied and Private Health Care, Aged Care and NDIS Care Services and its Impact on the Queensland Public Health System.

The community I represent takes great interest in the provision of care and services that are directly and indirectly linked to Queensland's Public Health System. This is due to the considerable number of healthcare providers who operate in the electorate and the significant amount of healthcare workers who live in the electorate.

Greenslopes contains the Greenslopes Private Hospital and over 40 Medical and Allied Health Practices and is buttressed by the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The second most common occupation in Greenslopes is Registered Nursing.

I also take great interest in care and services and their interaction with Queensland's Public Health System. This is due to my professional background as a Registered Nurse with experience working in Rehabilitations and Stroke Wards and educational background in Health Economics.

Due to this confluence of experiences, I am making a submission which draws from consultation I undertook with my community. The following are the key points of responses constituents have feedback to a survey I conducted:

- Overwhelmingly, respondents primarily engage with the Queensland Health system to access primary care and general practice (67%).
- 66% of respondents have no difficulty accessing health services in their community
- 52.6% of respondents have been deterred from accessing health services because of out-of-pocket expenses

- Overwhelmingly, respondents have a positive experience accessing care and health services in the Queensland Health system (79.3%)

While this feedback points to a well-functioning and relied upon health system, the feedback that 52.6% of respondents have been deterred from accessing health services due to out-of-pocket expenses is concerning. Because of this I would urge the HEC to firstly review the Commonwealth Government's bulk billing policies and medicare rebate freeze, and secondly, investigate the relationship current these have with out-of-pocket expenses.

Based on my personal experience and feedback I receive from the community, many people experience impacts on their health due to the difficulty of navigating the My Aged Care and National Disability Insurance systems. While there are positive reports from people who receive benefits from these services, there are many people who have difficulty accessing services that support wellness or provide the necessary cares required to live independently with a chronic condition. Particularly for those people who are aging, this can result in a requirement for residential aged care, usually via extended stays in acute hospitals, at an earlier point than would have occurred if adequate access to services was guaranteed.

We should start any review of our health system with an understanding that overall, our system is quite robust and world leading, however, we should always strive for improvement. Based on the surveys I have conducted, access to primary health care via GPs, access to medications via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, access to care via the NDIS and My Aged Care System are all sub-optimal and this places an increased burden on services delivered in both public and private acute health and hospital services.

I trust this submission assist with your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Joe Kelly MP
Member for Greenslopes