

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Health and Environment Committee; Aaron Harper](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Visit by the Hon Mr Harper, MP and his Health Review Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, 3 March 2022 10:10:55 AM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 3 March 2022 at 10:01:53 am AEST  
**To:** Rockhampton Electorate Office <[Rockhampton@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Rockhampton@parliament.qld.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Visit by the Hon Mr Harper, MP and his Health Review Committee

The Member for Rockhampton  
The Hon Mr Barry O'Rourke, MP

Dear Barry,  
Regarding the Health Review Committee chaired by the Hon Mr Harper MP  
Rockhampton visit, 03/03/2022

Thank you for taking my call this morning and inviting me to attend today's meeting but as discussed I am unable to do so, however I am able to provide this submission for consideration.

My concerns are regarding allied health service available to people in regional areas, in particular Renal Haemodialysis services in the Central Highlands and Central West, rather than being centralised in Rockhampton.

Rockhampton hospital currently provides renal haemodialysis for many, many patients from all parts of Central Queensland.  
Many of these patients are unable to have haemodialysis at home or are unsuitable medically for peritoneal dialysis and as a result are forced to travel to Rockhampton three days a week for hospital based haemodialysis.

As you are aware, my wife was a haemodialysis patient at the Rockhampton hospital for 10 years whilst waiting for a kidney transplant.  
For 8 of those 10 years we drove from Blackwater to Rockhampton three days a week, 52 weeks a year, covering about 500,000 kilometres during those 8 years, a distance far greater than the Earth to the Moon.

During the last state election campaign Labor promised a Renal unit for Clermont, that promise has not been kept,

During that same election campaign the Labor Member for Keppel announced a renal unit would be incorporated in the Yeppoon hospital, something I believe is happening.

Why would CQHHS agree to fund a renal unit for the Yeppoon hospital approximately 30k from Rockhampton yet insist that patients drive a 1400 daily return trip from Longreach for the same care? A daily return trip from Emerald to Rockhampton is about 550k, but it appears ok for them to be forced to do so but not Yeppoon residents.

To the uneducated it appears as if Labor electorates are receiving preferential funding and therefore better health services when it comes to the provision of this type of health care.

The Rockhampton Hospital currently cares for renal patients who travel from western towns such as Longreach, Barcaldine, Emerald to Rockhampton multiple times weekly for their dialysis needs.

This amount of travel impacts substantially on their quality of life, family time, increases their potential to be involved in a motor vehicle accident and contributes vehicle exhaust emission at a time we are trying to reduce greenhouse gasses.

I understand the Member for Gregory, the Hon Mr Lachlan Miller has been successful with his push to have a small renal dialysis unit set up in Longreach and congratulate both he and the state government for doing so.

I also understand that Mr Miller has been advocating, for some time now, for a Renal Dialysis unit to be established in Emerald.

My submission really is that the proposed renal unit for Clermont should be relocated to Emerald or a separate unit be established at the Emerald hospital, or perhaps the recently announced University managed health education campus be expanded to include renal dialysis

Clermont is managed by the Mackay Hospital Service and the town is having extreme difficulty in securing the services of GP's for private practice, trying to staff a renal unit in Clermont would be nigh on impossible.

Emerald is a much larger town than Clermont, it has a broader and more diverse economy than Clermont and has better services such as hospital, airport etc, In Emerald, currently, there are trained renal nursing staff working at private doctors surgeries and pharmacies that might be enticed back into the public sector if a renal unit was established in the town.

In closing, my submission is that the proposed Renal Dialysis unit in Clermont be relocated to Emerald, or an independent Renal Dialysis unit be set up in Emerald, perhaps with the assistance of the recently announced University Medical campus for Emerald.

Regards

**Frank Perry**

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