

Question on Notice
No. 2124
Asked on 1 December 2011

MR HOBBS asked the Minister for Health (MR WILSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the health districts of South West and Darling Downs West Moreton—

- (1) Which hospitals have public dental services and how many dental service positions (FTEs) are located at each hospital?
- (2) How many dentists are employed on a permanent, temporary or locum basis (all reported separately)?
- (3) If there are no permanent dentists, why is there no permanent dentist employed at these locations (reported separately by location)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Warrego for his question to the Minister for Health. As the Acting Minister for Health, I can provide the following response on behalf of Minister Wilson.

Queensland Health is committed to improving oral health services to all entitled Queenslanders and provides the most comprehensive public oral health service in Australia with over 1.9 million people (45.3% of the total Queensland population) eligible for dental care at no cost. Public oral health services provided a total of 929,973 occasions of service in 2009/2010, with a budget expenditure of approximately \$166 million.

The Queensland Government's oral health services would have been significantly bolstered by the Gillard Government's Commonwealth Dental Health Program, which was unfortunately stalled in the Senate by non-government members. The Scheme would have increased funding to Queensland oral health services by \$52.8 million over four years and delivered an additional 187,000 occasions of service in Queensland.

I urge you to support the State Government in calling on Federal LNP members to support this extra funding for Queenslanders.

I am advised by Queensland Health that public oral health services are provided in the regions referred to in the Question on Notice through Roma Hospital, Charleville Hospital, St. George Hospital, Boonah Hospital, Esk Hospital, Laidley Hospital, Gatton Hospital, Ipswich Community Dental Clinic, Collingwood Park Community Clinic, Toowoomba Hospital, Chinchilla Hospital, Dalby Hospital, Goondiwindi Hospital, Kingaroy Hospital, Stanthorpe Hospital, and Warwick Hospital.

I am further advised that a number of these facilities act as the hub for the provision of outreach services to smaller rural hospitals not listed e.g. Roma Hospital provides dental services to Mitchell, Injune and Surat.

Had the LNP Senators supported the Gillard Government's proposal to increase funding to Queensland's public dental services, even more communities in the Member's electorate could have had greater access to oral health services sooner.