

Question on Notice
No. 1107
Asked on 29 September 2004

MR MCNAMARA asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTAL) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the high incidence of skin cancer in Queensland – Will he advise what is being done to boost skin cancer awareness, particularly in regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer in Australia and indeed the world. In 2002 Queensland reported 204 recorded deaths from melanoma and 97 deaths from non-melanocytic skin cancer. The economic burden of skin cancer in Australia is considerable with the estimated direct cost being approximately \$300 million dollars annually.

In response to this on-going and important health issue, the Beattie Labour Government has committed an additional \$500,000 per annum towards boosting skin cancer awareness and prevention strategies to reduce the high human and financial cost to our community from this preventable cancer.

This will be achieved through the implementation of sustainable Statewide community education and awareness programs aimed at promoting sun protective behaviours and raising the awareness of the dangers of skin cancer in identified 'at risk' groups within the population, especially younger people, and those located in regional and rural communities throughout the State.

A critical component of this program will be the continued identification and collaboration with key stakeholders in other government departments, non government organisations such as the Queensland Cancer Fund, industry and the community to develop and strengthen partnerships in skin cancer prevention in Queensland.

Being part of the Smart State also means being Sun Smart.