

Question on Notice

No 762

Asked on 18 June 2004

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL) –

QUESTION:

With reference to a number of recent complaints I have received from constituents who have attended the Atherton Hospital only to have subsequently been sent bills for their treatment and as this has greatly distressed them –

Is it now common practice in Queensland Health's public hospitals to bill patients; if so, since when and why is this happening?

ANSWER:

All public eligible admitted patients in Queensland public hospitals have, and will continue to receive, their treatment free of charge.

Eligible persons who elect to be treated as private patients can receive bills for certain services, which is in accordance with the terms of the current and previous Australian Health Care Agreement.

Eligible persons who are being treated for a condition that is covered by a compensation scheme and overseas persons not covered by a reciprocal health care arrangement may also receive bills for their treatment.

All Queensland Health fees and charges for treatment are supported by the *Health Services Regulation 2002*.