

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 950**  
**Asked on 31 August 2004**

MR COPELAND asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)—

QUESTION:

What steps have been taken to address the lack of medical staff and resources at Mareeba Hospital which has caused cuts in services, resulting in third class treatment of patients at the hospital?

ANSWER:

Mareeba Hospital provides a range of quality services to the community. I reject the criticism of the hard working staff of the Mareeba Hospital inherent in the Member's question.

In order to ensure the critical acute services provided by Mareeba Hospital are maintained there has been a need to reduce general outpatients at both the hospital and outreach services to Dimbulah and Chillagoe in the short term.

The District has undertaken extensive recruitment activities to find a suitably qualified doctor, both national and international, which I detailed in my answer to Question on Notice No. 901 asked by the Member for Tablelands. I am advised that two doctors are due to commence subject to medical registration being granted. Following their orientation to the District, out-patient and outreach services will recommence.