

Question on Notice
No. 1506
Asked on 29 November 2006

MR KNUTH asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the provision of aged care respite services in Richmond and, in particular, the Government's commitment to fund four beds located at the Richmond Hospital—

Will he provide an update on the current status of this funding and indicate when these promised and much needed services will eventually be delivered in Richmond?

ANSWER:

At present, there are two long stay nursing home type beds within the Richmond Health Centre.

This issue was raised in response to a deputation arising from a Community Cabinet Meeting which was held in Winton on 13 February 2000.

A letter dated 2 March 2000, was sent to Cr John Wharton, Mayor of the Richmond Shire Council from Ms Wendy Edmond, Minister for Health at that time and detailed Queensland Health's stance with regards to this issue and stated that -

“Queensland Health would be pleased to support the use of hospital land for three hostel unit units provided the site is not subject to other claims. However, as advised, Queensland Health would be unable to provide capital funding.”

Thus, support for the use of Health Service land for the establishment of aged care accommodation was put forward initially in early 2000 by the Richmond Shire Council and was supported by the Health Minister at that time. However, as outlined above, it was clearly stated that Queensland Health was unable to provide any capital funding for this project.

The parcel of land is to be used for the construction of duplex aged care accommodation for the Richmond community. The Richmond Shire Council is responsible for the construction and management of this facility.

The transfer is now pending and responsibility for its progression lies with the Richmond Shire Council, who are currently pursuing this item through the relevant Government departments (Commonwealth and State). At present, the Department of Natural Resources is currently working with the Council on the issue of land transfer. It is the District's understanding that a Commonwealth grant for funding is being pursued.