

Question on Notice
No. 696
Asked on 10 May 2006

MRS E CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Gladstone Base Hospital and to the pregnant women who present for ante-natal and birthing care—

Statistically, of those who present (a) how many births occurred at Gladstone Base Hospital, (b) how many women were referred to other hospitals because Gladstone Base Hospital did not have the services required for the birth and (c) how many women were referred to other hospitals once labour had commenced?

ANSWER:

- (a) There are approximately 380-400 births per year at the Gladstone Hospital.
- (b) Gladstone Hospital has a fulltime Obstetrician, a fulltime Pediatrician, senior and junior doctors and midwifery nurses on staff. A small percentage of obstetric clients are referred to tertiary centre hospitals for complex/high risk births where neonatal intensive care management and/or specialist anaesthetic skills are required. These complex/high risk births are not normally managed in a regional setting. Since July 2005 eight clients were referred on for neonatal specialist care.
- (c) A small number of obstetric clients who are at risk of premature labour or in premature labour (35 weeks pregnant or less) are referred for specialist management once labour has commenced. These premature neonates are at risk of breathing difficulties that require tertiary specialist management. Every effort is made to stop impending labour, however there are clinical circumstances where this may not be possible. These clients are transferred out with either a midwife or medical officer to a tertiary centre with neonatal specialist facilities. Since July 2005 19 clients required transfer.