

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 131**  
**Asked on 20 February 2007**

MS DARLING asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

Will he provide a progress report on the new Emergency Department at the Prince Charles Hospital, which will service the electors of Sandgate?

ANSWER:

The redevelopment of The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) involves the construction of a new emergency department, two medical wards, a new intensive care unit and two new theatres, as well as refurbishment upgrades of some areas of the existing hospital.

The new TPCH Emergency Department successfully moved to its new location at TPCH, in the week of 21 February 2007. The new Emergency Department has increased the department's physical capacity from 12 patient consultation areas to 39, which includes six resuscitation bays and a patient fast-track area. The Emergency Department will have its own x-ray room, with x-ray equipment scheduled for installation in late March 2007.

The phased opening of the Emergency Department at TPCH will commence in late April 2007. Until this time there will be no change in the service profile of the department, with cardiac and respiratory presentations continuing to be the focus until the expansion of services. TPCH has been planning a phased opening of its Emergency Department that will see the gradual introduction of various hospital and community based services over a 12-18 month period.

Staff recruitment is well advanced for the expansion of TPCH Emergency Department services. A Director of Emergency [Fellow of the Australian College of Emergency Medicine (FACEM)], Staff Specialist (FACEM), and a number of Senior Medical Officers, Career Medical Officers, Registrars, Residents and Nurses have been recruited. A limited number of positions are still under recruitment, with additional staffing to be increased in line with patient activity, and as part of the phased in approach to the establishment of new services.

It is anticipated that the overall expanded service capacity at TPCH will:

- ease the bed shortage and service access problems across hospitals in the Brisbane North area;
- support improved linkages with community based services including community based clinics to allow for better management of chronic disease in the Brisbane North area; and
- support access to community based services.

The new TPCH Emergency Department expects to receive approximately 32,000 patient presentations within the first 12 months. This is expected to provide some relief in patient activity for the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Redcliffe and Caboolture Hospitals Emergency Departments.