

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 378**  
**Asked on 8 March 2007**

MRS CUNNINGAM asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to health services at Gladstone Base Hospital—

Will he guarantee that Gladstone Base Hospital will not deteriorate to an outreach service and that access to specialist services will grow as the community continues to grow rather than diminish as foreshadowed by the Australian Medical Association?

ANSWER:

I am happy to assure the local member for Gladstone that, not only will the current level of service at Gladstone Hospital be maintained, but in line with the plans for an integrated Central Queensland Health Service District, these services will be developed and an increased range of specialist services offered locally at Gladstone Hospital as part of the Central Queensland network.

Currently, the hospital has recruited a full-time Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, has a full-time Paediatrician, has been successful in recruiting a full-time specialist Physician and is waiting confirmation of the acceptance of an offer of appointment to an additional General Surgeon.

I am advised that in the near future, a visiting Orthopaedic Service to Gladstone will commence. There are two additional Senior Medical Officer positions which are currently vacant and being recruited to. The Gladstone Medical Director will be working with the Central Queensland Health Service District's Clinical Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Director of Medical Services at Rockhampton and Emerald, on the progressive development of services where appropriate, not only in Gladstone, but also in Emerald and Biloela, as key hub hospitals within Central Queensland.

This development of District wide clinical networks is one which will ensure that Gladstone residents will be able to access specialist services into the future.