

Question on Notice
No. 924
Asked on 7 June 2007

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

Will he guarantee the people who reside in Western Queensland that their aerial specialist services will be retained indefinitely and further enhanced?

ANSWER:

In August 2006 the Flying Obstetrician with the Flying Specialist Service based in Roma resigned. His resignation highlighted key issues regarding the sustainability of the service, especially in times when it is difficult to recruit specialist doctors to rural and remote areas.

Queensland Health commissioned a review of the Flying Specialist Service, including the Flying Obstetric and Gynaecology Service, currently based in Roma.

Broad consultation has recently commenced regarding the future model of the service and many rural medical officers, General Practitioners and health services currently serviced by the flying team will be consulted.

Models of service delivery to ensure the sustainability of the Flying Obstetric and Gynaecology Service are currently being developed.

Fundamental to this review is ensuring a more sustainable model of service delivery for rural areas and where possible, improving the availability of other health services to rural Queenslanders through better utilisation of aircraft leased as part of the flying obstetric service.