

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 967**  
**Asked on 8 June 2007**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to neonatal cots—

- (1) How many neonatal cots are there in Queensland (reported by location and district)?
- (2) What portion of the total beds are neonatal cots (reported by location and district)?

**ANSWER:**

(1) – (2)

Queensland provides three levels of care to babies born in Queensland birthing facilities - neonatal intensive care, special care and regular care.

Neonatal intensive care is high dependency care for extremely premature and sick babies (from Queensland and northern New South Wales) who require ventilation, intravenous feeding and other types of intensive care monitoring and treatment. The specialised nature of the care required, and the need for expert knowledge and skills essential for neonatal intensive care doctors, nurses and other health professionals, limits the number of sites where this specialist care can be provided in Queensland as a quality, safe and sustainable Statewide service. Similar to many health services neonatal intensive care units are experiencing difficulties with recruitment of sufficiently trained neonatal specialist doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Neonatal intensive care is provided at three Queensland hospitals with a total of 67 cots. Currently there are 30 cots at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, 25 (comprised of public and private cots) at the Mater Mothers' Hospital, Brisbane and 12 cots at The Townsville Hospital. Babies requiring neonatal intensive care cannot always be cared for in the service closest to their home.

Special care nurseries located in many provincial cities complement neonatal intensive care services. These nurseries care for babies above 32-33 weeks gestation, stabilise infants who are born or become sick before they can reach a neonatal intensive care nursery and receive babies transferred back from neonatal intensive care nurseries after clinical stabilisation. Special care nurseries do not ventilate babies except in emergencies. There are both public and private special care nurseries in Queensland.

There are currently 205 public and 96 private special care nursery cots in Queensland. The public special care nurseries are at Bundaberg, Caboolture, Cairns, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Logan, Mackay, Maryborough, Mt Isa, Mater Mothers' Brisbane, Nambour, Redcliffe, Redland, Rockhampton, Royal Brisbane and Women's, Townsville and Toowoomba. The private special care nurseries are provided at 15 provincial private hospitals.

There are a total of 587 normal neonatal cots supporting well baby care across the public birthing facilities in Queensland. A list of the location and district of the neonatal intensive care, special care and normal neonatal cots is provided as at April 2007 is Attachment 1.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Neonatal Cots - Level 3 (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)</b>	<b>Neonatal Cots - Level 2 (Special Care Nursery)</b>	<b>Neonatal Cots - Well Neonates</b>
Atherton	-	-	✓
Biloela	-	-	✓
Boonah	-	-	✓
Bundaberg	-	✓	✓
Caboolture	-	✓	✓
Cairns Base	-	✓	✓
Charleville	-	-	✓
Chinchilla	-	-	✓
Cooktown	-	-	✓
Cunnamulla	-	-	✓
Dalby	-	-	✓
Dysart	-	-	✓
Emerald	-	-	✓
Gladstone	-	-	✓
Gold Coast	-	✓	✓
Goondiwindi	-	-	✓
Gympie	-	-	✓
Hervey Bay	-	✓	✓
Innisfail	-	-	✓
Ipswich	-	✓	✓
Island Medical Service	-	-	✓
Kingaroy	-	-	✓
Logan	-	✓	✓
Longreach	-	-	✓
Mackay	-	✓	✓
Mareeba District	-	-	✓
Maryborough	-	✓	✓
Mater Mother's Brisbane	✓	✓	✓
Moranbah	-	-	✓
Mossman	-	-	✓
Mount Isa	-	✓	✓
Mount Morgan	-	-	✓
Mungindi	-	-	✓
Nambour	-	✓	✓
Proserpine	-	-	✓
Redcliffe	-	✓	✓
Redland	-	✓	✓
Rockhampton Base	-	✓	✓
Roma	-	-	✓
Royal Brisbane & Women's	✓	✓	✓
St George	-	-	✓
Stanthorpe	-	-	✓
Theodore	-	-	✓
Thursday Island	-	-	✓

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Neonatal Cots - Level 3 (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)</b>	<b>Neonatal Cots - Level 2 (Special Care Nursery)</b>	<b>Neonatal Cots - Well Neonates</b>
Toowoomba	-	✓	✓
Townsville	✓	✓	✓
Warwick	-	-	✓
Weipa	-	-	✓
Yeppoon	-	-	✓
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>587</b>