

Question on Notice
No. 975
Asked on 8 June 2007

MRS REILLY asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to discussion in the public arena lately regarding the issue of parking near our Queensland Health facilities, particularly Southport and Robina Hospitals—

- (1) Will he describe the measures being undertaken by Queensland Health to try to address this problem in the Southport and Robina precincts?
- (2) Will he provide particular details for parking options available to people visiting palliative care patients following relocation of the palliative care ward from Robina to the Pacific Private facility at Southport?

ANSWER:

- (1) Southport Precinct

Approximately 18 months ago, the Gold Coast City Council introduced new 2P meters in the hospital vicinity and increased the hourly parking rate from \$0.40 per hour to \$1.00 per hour. The Council also raised the parking infringement cost from \$15.00 to \$35.00. At the request of residents, the 2P parking zone was extended in October 2006. These restrictions do limit public parking however the Council gives consideration to waiving parking infringements in exceptional and emergent circumstances on the provision of evidence from Queensland Health.

In relation to staff parking, additional on site parking has been made available to night duty staff. The hospital also administers 40 dedicated parking spaces for staff who participate in a car pooling program which is facilitated by purpose built software. Seventy permits are issued each month and the program has received positive feedback from employees.

Robina Precinct

Parking at the Robina Hospital has been extended however it is currently tight due to construction and the recruitment of additional staff required to open the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit. An additional 190 parking spaces will be available when construction is completed in September 2007.

- (2) Free parking will be available on site at Pacific Private for visitors to patients of the Palliative Care Unit.