

**Question on Notice
No. 995
Asked on 7 August 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his recent visit to the Redlands Hospital to open the 12 chair renal dialysis unit which I understand is only part of an overall plan for improvements to our hospital-

Will he outline to the constituents of Cleveland what those improvements mean to the overall services available to the good people of Redlands?

ANSWER:

Redland Hospital's new 12-chair renal unit is part of a \$15.4 million redevelopment project that is currently underway at the hospital. This project will boost health care on Brisbane's Bayside.

The Renal Dialysis Unit opened in May 2007 and is a welcome addition to Redland Hospital's services. It is an important part of the Queensland Government's extensive program to bring renal services closer to where people live.

The unit is now providing dialysis to 24 Bayside residents, who previously had to travel to Princess Alexandra Hospital for treatment up to three times a week, from as far away as North Stradbroke Island.

Fifteen new nurses have been recruited to work in the Dialysis Unit.

In addition to the Dialysis Unit, the Redland Hospital redevelopment also includes a new emergency department and extended pharmacy, pathology and health records departments.

The emergency department is being expanded to 31 treatment cubicles from the current 13 cubicles. This will include five observation beds for patients who need to be monitored overnight.

The observation beds and design of the emergency department will provide better access for all patients and improve patient flow. There will also be a central staff station allowing clinicians to simultaneously observe all patients.

Work on the emergency department is currently underway, and is scheduled for completion in March 2008. It is the final stage of the redevelopment.

In the past 12 months, there have been almost 40,000 presentations to the Redland Hospital emergency department. This is compared to 24,500 patients in 1998-99.

Redland Hospital's new pathology department is twice the size of the old one, with a larger laboratory and an additional treatment room that will allow more efficient work practices and the expansion of services.

The new pharmacy department includes a private room for counselling patients and a training area for students. Health records department has been moved to a new building where there is more space for storing important patient records.

Over the past year there have also been increases in the number of nursing, medical and allied health staff positions at Redland Hospital.

There are now 94 full time equivalent (FTE) medical positions compared to 91 in July 2006, 242 FTE nursing positions compared to 223 in July 2006 and 49 FTE allied health positions compared to 45 in July 2006.