

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1661**  
**Asked on 11 November 2008**

MS CROFT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent quarterly public hospital performance report that indicates a significant increase in the number of patients treated at the Gold Coast Hospital—

How has this increase been achieved?

ANSWER:

There has been an improvement in performance of the Gold Coast Health Service District over the last 12 months. These improvements demonstrate the positive impact of a number of strategies and programs undertaken with the support of the Government, including:

- The \$40 million Stage One Robina Hospital development including the creation of a second Emergency Department within the District. While the new Emergency Department has addressed unmet demand which is likely to have contributed to the overall increase in activity in the District, it has enabled better patient flow through a redistribution of acute admissions to hospital;
- The creation of a new 20 bed medical ward (3B) at the Gold Coast Hospital by moving the Executive Offices out of the acute hospital setting to a nearby location;
- The integration of a community based interim care model through the acquisition and development of the 63 bed Carrara Health Centre. This has enabled patients within the acute hospital to be discharged to the less acute facility when their care plan supports this. Previously, these patients would have remained in Hospital until discharged home;
- The acquisition of 20 Palliative Care beds at Pacific Private Hospital resulting in an increase of 19 additional Mental Health beds in the District;
- Commencement of the trial of the Home Health Link program; and
- Implementation of Lean Thinking approaches relating to patient flow to improve internal processes.