

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1663**  
**Asked on 11 November 2008**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recently released quarterly hospital performance report—

- (1) How has the Redlands hospital performed in the last quarter?
- (2) How has the government assisted the Health response in the Redlands over the last three years?

ANSWER:

- (1) The performance figures for the September quarter show Queensland's public hospitals are working harder than ever with increases in admissions, emergency attendances and elective surgery procedures continuing to far outstrip population growth.

Our \$10 billion Health Action plan is steadily transforming health services in Queensland, and there's no better proof of this than the number of patients being treated at Redland Hospital.

During the September quarter, Redland Hospital treated 5,239 inpatients, a massive 22 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

The hospital's busy outpatient clinics provided 15,674 occasions of service.

And, importantly, the report also shows that no Redland Hospital patients waited longer than clinically desirable for their elective surgery.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the hospital staff for their hard work and commitment to tackling elective surgery waiting lists.

Emergency admissions, the hospital's first priority, are also increasing and reflecting the rapid population growth of the area.

Redland Hospital's Emergency Department treated 10,500 patients during the September quarter. This was an increase of 3.1 per cent compared to the same period last year, and averages 114 emergency patients receiving emergency care each day.

In 1998-99, when the 'new' Redland Hospital opened, there were 24,500 presentations to the emergency department. Over the past 12 months, there have been 40,781 presentations, an increase of more than 66 per cent.

- (2) That's why the Government has built a new Emergency Department at Redland Hospital boosting the number of treatment spaces from 13 to 31, as part of the hospital's recent redevelopment. This includes five observation beds for patients who need to be monitored overnight.

The new emergency department is part of a \$15.4 million redevelopment project that has recently been completed at the hospital. It is a significant boost to health care on Brisbane's bayside.

The redevelopment also includes a 12 chair renal dialysis unit that is now providing more than 100 dialysis sessions a week to 36 patients who would have previously had to travel to other hospitals to receive care.

In addition to the renal dialysis unit, the redevelopment includes a new pharmacy, new pathology and health records department.

The new pathology department is twice the size of the old one, with a larger laboratory and an additional treatment room.

The new pharmacy includes a private room for counselling patients and a training area for students.

The Health Records Department has been moved to a new building where there is more space for storing important patient records.

Our hospitals are working harder than ever, but the strategies this Government has put in place are making strong improvements to ensuring more Queenslanders receive the timely health care they need and deserve.

I have nothing but praise for the dedicated staff of Redland Hospital and I thank them all for their hard work.