

Question on Notice
No. 1698
Asked on 12 November 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will he advise how families in the electorate of Brisbane Central will benefit from the Queensland Children's Hospital project?

ANSWER:

To cope with the predicted population growth in Brisbane and South East Queensland, the Queensland Children's Hospital will be considerably larger than the current Royal Children's Hospital and Mater Children's Hospital combined. Additionally, a range of new and enhanced services are planned, for example the extension of the age range to provide services for adolescents.

A dedicated paediatric emergency department will be established in the Brisbane Metro North Health Service District which will continue to provide high-quality emergency care for children 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This paediatric emergency department along with other paediatric emergency departments in the surrounding Brisbane metropolitan hospitals such as Redcliffe, Caboolture, Redlands, Logan and Ipswich will be networked with the Queensland Children's Hospital to ensure children receive the highest quality care close to where they live, depending on their condition. The Brisbane Metro North Health Service District has commenced a planning process involving key clinicians to examine options for how this service can best be provided. The Royal Children's Hospital will continue to provide emergency services until the Queensland Children's Hospital opens in stages from 2011-14.

A significant benefit of the new Queensland Children's Hospital for parents of very sick children, where the child requires treatment from multiple specialists, is that they will be able to access all their services in one place, rather than having to travel between services at the Mater Children's Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital.

By the time the Queensland Children's Hospital opens, there will be two new cross river links at Hale Street and the Clem Jones Tunnel, which will greatly improve traffic flows across the river. Public transport access via bus will be greatly improved for families when the northern bus link is complete and linked to the busways that service the southern suburbs of Brisbane. The site of the Queensland Children's Hospital is some 150m away from South Bank rail station making it easy to access for families that choose to travel via rail. For families that chose to use river transport, a ferry terminal in South Bank is only minutes away from the hospital.

Throughout the construction of the new hospital, communication with residents throughout Brisbane will be undertaken to ensure a smooth transition of services. An information brochure has recently been sent to all residents in the north side of Brisbane, including those in the electorate of Brisbane Central to advise them of the benefits of the new Queensland Children's Hospital and to address specific concerns of residents. A range of communication activities are planned throughout the construction of the Queensland Children's Hospital to continue to engage with residents.