

Question on Notice
No. 1702
Asked on 12 November 2008

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Cairns Base Hospital and the use of private surgeons to reduce the long waiting lists of public patients due to lack of staff at this hospital—

- (1) Are private surgeons still providing services at this hospital?
- (2) If so, will private surgeons continue to be contracted to eliminate the long waiting lists not only for Category 1 patients but also for Category 2 patients and other public patients who have been waiting for years for their surgical procedures?

ANSWER:

- (1) Yes, as is usual practice, private Visiting Medical Officers (VMO) are contracted to provide services to public patients of Cairns Base Hospital.
- (2) Yes, private VMO's will continue to be contracted to operate on public patients.