

Question on Notice
No. 1865
Asked on 27 November 2008

MRS PRATT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Australian Dental Association Queensland (ADAQ) request in 2006 for \$200,000 to counter the anti-fluoride campaign which was granted and given that part of that money was used to compile a petition of 25,000 signatures which was presented to the Premier—

- (1) Will he allocate \$200,000 to the anti-fluoride campaign to put to the people the health concerns of this form of mass medication?
- (2) Will he table the briefing note that recommends approval for the allocation of \$200,000 to the ADAQ and states ‘The ADAQ will also be able to undertake campaigns which include strategies and initiatives which may not be seen as appropriate for a Government department to undertake e.g. the promotion of letter writing campaigns’?

ANSWER:

- (1) It is the responsibility of Queensland Health to make decisions based on the best possible outcomes for Queenslanders. Water fluoridation has been identified as the most effective way for everyone to access the benefits of fluoride, and it is recognised as a key public health initiative for the prevention of dental caries. Therefore, it would be contradictory for Queensland Health to fund messages that are contrary to the Department’s public health programs.
- (2) The briefing note referred to was released in 2007 in response to a Freedom of Information request. Queensland Health views the ADAQ as a key partner in water fluoridation advocacy. Queensland Health has implemented a range of strategies to promote water fluoridation including collaboration with the ADAQ. The grant provided to the ADAQ was to provide evidence based information to Queenslanders so that they could make an informed decision about whether or not to fluoridate local water supplies.