Question on Notice
No. 464
Asked on 15 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With respect to the proposed new Kawana Hospital—

Will child care services be provided at the new hospital and if so, what particulars can he provide about the child care facilities?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his interest in staff amenities at the new Sunshine Coast Hospital. As a large percentage of Queensland Health employees have young children, your question on child care is particularly important.

Queensland Health facilitates the provision of child care facilities but allows the private sector to run the child care business activity.

As the Sunshine Coast Hospital is being investigated for its potential to be delivered as a Public Private Partnership, the development of a business case in accordance with the Queensland Government's Value-for-Money Framework will investigate a range of opportunities presented by the new site including:

- potential to collocate a private hospital;
- maximising car parking facilities;
- retail operations;
- education and research facilities;
- child and aged care facilities; and
- private medical suites and consulting rooms.

Further direction on these and other elements of the project will be clarified when Government makes a final decision on the business case and the preferred delivery method for the project, whether via a Public Private Partnership or Government delivery, in late 2008.

The benefits to Queensland Health of an appropriate child care service include the recruitment and retention of staff and the ability to meet the needs of shift workers.

There has been allowance made on the hospital site at Kawana for a child care centre built by the private sector.