

Question on Notice
No. 514
Asked on 16 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland Health accommodation on the Torres Strait Islands - Saibai, Boigu, Mabuiag, Badu, Horn, Murray, Darnley (Erub), Yorke (Masig), Coconut (Poruma), Bamaga, Thursday, Dauan, Stephen, Warraber, and Yam—

Will he detail (a) any community involvement in the decision-making processes for equipping the accommodation with appropriate security measures, (b) any input Queensland Health requested from the local police to help assess security risks and provide secure accommodation for staff and (c) any liaison with the local police or Queensland Police Service (listed separately) to formulate action to be taken in response to requests for urgent assistance from Queensland Health staff?

ANSWER:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsular Health Community Council and Torres Strait district staff are visiting each island's Primary Health Clinic (PHC) and meeting with the local Councillor and Health Management Committee Members to discuss community strategies for ensuring PHC staff security. They have visited Badu, Mabuiag, Kubin, St Pauls, Darnley, Murray, Horn, Warraber, Yam and Coconut Islands. This group plans to visit each island's PHC over the next few weeks and develop security options specific for each island.
- (b) Police have not been involved in assessing security risks or providing secure accommodation for staff.
- (c) The District Manager, Torres Strait Health Service District has met with Thursday Island Police and has been advised that Queensland Health staff requiring emergency assistance are to phone '000'. This ensures that the call is recorded and that caller location can be traced. Police will then determine the appropriate response based on the nature of the '000' call.