

Question on Notice
No. 1067
Asked on 1 September 2009

MR MESSENGER asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Will the Premier give an assurance that her government will not take legal action against those former Queensland Health patients who choose to speak with a Member of the Legislative Assembly about the government's special compensation process for the patients and widows who were the subject of the Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry?

ANSWER:

I am unaware of the basis of the Honourable Member's question, as I would encourage participants of the Special Claims Process to speak to any Member of Parliament about their involvement and participation in the process.

However, when it comes to discussing the details of their own claims and how much compensation they sought and received, participants must be reminded of the confidentiality of the legal process. The confidentiality of the process protects the privacy of the participants and the Queensland Government will protect this confidentiality.

With respect to the State, the confidentiality of the legal process ensures that any future special process mediations will not be prejudiced and that the nature of a settlement is determined by a discussion of the specific merits and needs of the matter, rather than any speculation based on comparisons with other settlements.