

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1196**  
**Asked on 15 September 2009**

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the projected growth in the electorate of Gladstone with new industries—

Does the Minister support the retention and growth of essential services in the electorate, such as public oncology services at the Gladstone Base Hospital?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gladstone for her question.

I have met with the Member to discuss this issue personally, and indicated to her that I will be happy to visit Gladstone to meet with a small group of her constituents to discuss opportunities for further enhancements to health service delivery in Gladstone.

I also refer the Member to my answer to Question on Notice number 1149 of 2009, in which I indicated to the Member that cancer services are delivered into regional areas of Queensland according to a hub and spoke model. This model ensures services are delivered as safely as possible and allows specialist practitioners to remain active and up-to-date in terms of practical experience.

Under the model, low risk chemotherapy and supportive therapy can be delivered in Gladstone, under the supervision of a consultative service based in Rockhampton. Specialist care is provided in Rockhampton, where there is sufficient demand to ensure specialists continually practise.

The growth of essential services in the Gladstone area of the Central Queensland Health Service District will be supported by the development of an integrated service model to enhance access to primary and community health services in appropriate locations.

This will be assisted by the development of a service plan which will identify a suite of health services across the health continuum, with a population needs focus delivered via a range of service models and services locations.

Essential services such as emergency, obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics, medicine and surgery continue at Gladstone Hospital.

Various outreach speciality clinics also continue to visit Gladstone.

In addition to these services, in the past 12 months the following enhancements have occurred at Gladstone Hospital:

- an additional weekly Paediatric outreach clinic from Rockhampton Hospital.
- the introduction of a six weekly visiting Dermatology clinic from Brisbane.

- a new fortnightly public Podiatry service outreached from Rockhampton, as an extension of the current HACC funded service.

Opportunities for further enhancements are welcome. Currently discussions are underway for the possible introduction of a Nephrology outreach service from Rockhampton Hospital.

I look forward to further discussing with the Member ways in which health services in Gladstone can be improved into the future.