

Question on Notice
No. 1257
Asked on 16 September 2009

DR DOUGLAS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Gold Coast Hospital opening in 2012—

- (1) Will there be a paediatric intensive care unit and how many beds will the unit be designated?
- (2) Of the 750 planned beds, how many will be designated special baby care unit beds?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gaven for his question.

- (1) The new \$1.76 billion 750 bed Gold Coast University Hospital is scheduled for completion in December 2012.

The new Hospital will not have a dedicated paediatric intensive care unit but will have two dedicated paediatric intensive care beds located in the Hospital's general intensive care unit. As a specialist service the only paediatric intensive care unit for Queensland will be at the new Queensland Children's Hospital. The Gold Coast University Hospital intensive care unit will commence operation with 30 beds including two paediatric beds and has the capability to expand to 50 beds depending on demand.

Care of children in Queensland paediatric and general intensive care units will be in-line with the requirements for the provision of services in the new Queensland Clinical Services Capability Framework. Care for children in the Gold Coast University Hospital general intensive care unit will be part of a formal service network for children's intensive care. The new Queensland Children's Hospital will be the central provider of services and clinical support in that network.

- (2) The neonatal services at the new Gold Coast University Hospital will include 30 Level 2 Special Care and 14 Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Cots.

The neonatal services provided at the Gold Coast will also be part of a formal statewide neonatal service network to meet the service demand for Queensland. The new Gold Coast University Hospital will be the fourth neonatal intensive care service for Queensland. The other units are at The Townsville, Royal Brisbane and Women's and Mater Mother's Hospitals. The new neonatal intensive care unit at the Gold Coast will be one of the central providers of services and clinical support in that network.