

Question on Notice
No. 1371
Asked on 6 October 2009

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

QUESTION:

With reference to school dental clinics and vans—

Will the Minister supply the numbers and locations (reported separately) for each electorate in Queensland, including the Burnett, for the last three years?

ANSWER:

Currently, Queensland Health operates 160 fixed school dental clinics across the State as follows: Metro South, 37; Metro North, 26; Central Queensland, 5; Cairns, 14; Central West, 3; Sunshine Coast - Wide Bay, 10; Townsville, 8; Torres Strait – Northern Peninsula, 17; Mt Isa, 4; Cape York, 6; Gold Coast, 7; Darling Downs – West Moreton, 19; South West, 1; and Mackay, 3.

Queensland Health also operates 197 Single Surgery Mobile Dental Clinics. In case it had escaped the Member's notice, these Mobile Dental Clinics are on wheels and – not surprisingly- mobile, which means they are not attached to any particular electorate.

The Bligh Government provides the most comprehensive public oral health service in Australia with over 1.9 million people (45.3% of the total Queensland population) eligible for dental care at no cost.

No other State matches the level of service we provide.

The Queensland Government's oral health services would have been significantly bolstered by the Rudd Government's Commonwealth Dental Health Program, which has unfortunately been stalled in the Senate by non-government members.

The Scheme would have increased funding to Queensland oral health services ten-fold and deliver an additional one million dental consultations Australia-wide.

Under the Rudd Government's Commonwealth Dental Health Program, Queensland would have received \$52.8 million over 3 years – that is more than 187,000 additional dental consultations in Queensland alone.

Unfortunately, Liberal and National Party Senators have stalled the Scheme, resulting in fewer services for Queenslanders.