

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1461**  
**Asked on 8 October 2009**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Children's Hospital and the first three years of its operation—

How many attendances have been planned for oral health purposes (with each year reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his question.

Queenslanders and 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. Public oral health services provided a total of 1,094,443 occasions of service in 2007-2008, with a budget of approximately \$145 million. This budget is estimated to be \$156 million for 2009-2010.

Following the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in 1996 by the Howard Government, Queensland was the only State to fully replace, from State funds, the \$20 million withdrawn by the Commonwealth. Unlike Queensland, many other States and Territories either reduced services or introduced co-payments in order to address the shortfall in Commonwealth funding.

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 by \$52.8 million over three years and delivered an additional one million dental consultations Australia-wide.

If the Honourable Member was serious about improving dental services for Queenslanders, he would join the Government in calling on Federal LNP Senators to support the scheme.

The new Children's Oral Health Service located at the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) will be the only paediatric dental service providing super speciality and speciality services in the public domain within the state of Queensland.

The QCH will provide the most specialized and complex services, while the more straight forward services will continue to be provided through the Metro North Health District.

It is expected that the Queensland Children's Hospital will provide approximately 11,700 of the more complex Occasions of Service per annum for 2014, 2015 and 2016 within a six chair oral health facility.

Three chairs will remain in the Metro North Health Service District, in addition to the existing children's oral health services provided through the school based dental clinics and mobile dental vans.