

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1475**  
**Asked on 8 October 2009**

MS DAVIS 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 has the Queensland Children's Hospital Emergency Department planned for each year (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Aspley for her question.

The Queensland Government supports the construction of the Queensland Children's Hospital which is in stark contrast to the latest LNP proposal. As recently as July this year both the Member for Caloundra and Member for Kawana called for the Queensland Children's Hospital project to be scrapped and the funds diverted to a project servicing their electorates.

The LNP has history of cancelling hospital projects and diverting funding to their own electorate like when the Member for Toowoomba South cancelled the Rockhampton Hospital project and divert funds to Toowoomba; now the Member for Caloundra wants to do the same.

Planning for emergency department attendances at the new Queensland Children's Hospital has been undertaken with the focus of better meeting the need for services away from the city centre, and closer to where children and families live.

This includes projecting attendances at the new Queensland Children's Hospital and at Logan, Redland, Ipswich, Redcliffe, and Caboolture hospitals, and a new emergency service for children at The Prince Charles Hospital.

These new or expanded services will include dedicated specialist staff, including doctors and nurses, and child and family friendly facilities.

Implementation of *The South East Queensland Paediatric Planning Report*, in conjunction with the establishment of the Queensland Children's Hospital, will enhance emergency services in the Greater Brisbane Metropolitan area resulting in greater emergency service self-sufficiency for children and their families closer to their homes.

For example, a new children's emergency department will be built at The Prince Charles Hospital some 8km closer to the Aspley electorate than the existing Royal Children's Hospital.

This new Prince Charles Hospital children's emergency department is planned to provide 20,000 emergency attendances in its first 12 months of opening in 2012, with an average increase of 1,000 per year for the two years thereafter.

In the financial year 2007/08 the Mater Children's Hospital provided 41,793 emergency department attendances and the Royal Children's Hospital provided 29,448 emergency department attendances.

The Queensland Children's Hospital Emergency Department has been designed to provide in excess of 76,000 attendances per year and is expected to provide approximately 73,000 emergency department attendances in 2014 and 2015, increasing to 76,000 in 2016. This is in addition to paediatric emergency services to be provided at Logan, Redland, Ipswich, Redcliffe, Caboolture and Prince Charles Hospitals.