

Question on Notice
No. 1752
Asked on 11 November 2009

MS O'NEILL asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the current status of the provision of school dental services to children in the Kallangur Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Kallangur for her question.

The Kallangur Electorate comprises 15 schools of which 11 are treated via the service based at Kallangur, and the remaining 4 schools are treated via the service based at Caboolture.

The School Dental Service (SDS) based at Kallangur provides care via two fixed clinics (Kallangur and Strathpine) and two Mobile dental clinics (vans).

The SDS based at Caboolture provides care to four schools within the Kallangur area operating a mobile school dental clinic (van) at each school.

The SDS was offered to 9,356 children over the last 2 years with 6,528 electing to receive general dental treatment. During the same period, the dental emergency clinic at Kallangur treated 1,837 children.

The schools within this area are seen on a recall basis ranging between 1 and 3 years. Emergency treatment is available every working day within the North Brisbane Area including the Kallangur School Dental Clinic via 1300 365 997 (free call number) and within the Redcliffe Caboolture Area including the Caboolture School Dental clinic via 1300 300 850 (free call number).

Upon completion of the \$35 million Queensland Government program to fluoridated drinking water supplies in December 2012, 95% of Queenslanders will have access to fluoridated water.

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.