

Question on Notice
No. 1860
Asked on 24 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Bundaberg dental crisis and the fact that Queensland Health has admitted to total liability for the sterilisation failure, and as hundreds of Burnett and Bundaberg families unnecessarily suffered trauma, pain, shock, anxiety and damage—

- (1) Will the Deputy Premier support an immediate financial assistance package of \$5,000 to be delivered before Christmas to partly compensate victims?
- (2) Will the Deputy Premier also support the establishment of a special compensation process designed to mediate a just and fair final compensation amount on top of the initial \$5,000 payment for all Burnett/Bundaberg dental victims?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Burnett for his question.

Contrary to the Member's suggestion, I am not aware that Queensland Health has "admitted total liability" in this matter. In the absence of a claim against Queensland Health, that statement has no clear meaning.

However, patients seeking compensation are welcome to avail themselves of established processes at law, and should seek the guidance of an appropriately qualified legal practitioner should they wish to do so.

As the Member knows, the circumstances surrounding this matter are the subject of an on-going investigation.