

Question on Notice
No. 191
Asked on 23 April 2009

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Beaudesert Electorate which has more than 800 births annually and no maternity ward—

Will the Government commit to reinstating the maternity ward at the hospital which was taken out in 2001?

ANSWER:

I am advised by Queensland Health that the decision was a difficult one to make, but the over-riding consideration was, and will always be, the safety of mothers and their babies.

Mothers are still able to receive antenatal outpatient care and postnatal community midwifery services at Beaudesert Hospital and within their local community, due to the integrated midwifery and obstetrics service provided through Logan Hospital.

Birthing services at Beaudesert Hospital ceased in December 2003, and an outreach antenatal service was commenced when a suitably qualified obstetrician was appointed in February 2005 to continue to provide a safe level of care.

This service includes a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist who provide antenatal care as part of a team which includes trained and experienced midwives. The service is conducted twice weekly, and provides obstetric and maternity support. A midwife at Beaudesert Hospital is linked with the outreach team. Back-up midwifery staff from Logan Hospital are sent to Beaudesert Hospital as required to ensure service delivery.

I am advised that this have improved the service allowing women to access specialist obstetric and antenatal care in their local community, providing a similar level of care to that which is available at Logan Hospital.

Beaudesert Hospital continues to play an extremely important role in health care of the local community and it is essential part of services provided by Queensland Health.