

Question on Notice
No. 1941
Asked on 26 November 2009

MR HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With the increased activity at the Toowoomba Hospital, the growth of the surgical waiting list and the reduced hours of a number of general surgeons, will he provide Toowoomba Hospital with an allocation of Surgery Connect funds, and also engage the additional surgeons and associated nursing staff and beds that are urgently needed?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Toowoomba South for his question.

Since February 2008, Surgery Connect has funded treatment for 900 patients waiting for elective procedures at Toowoomba Hospital. Toowoomba Hospital will continue to access Surgery Connect funding in 2010.

Queensland Health data for the first four months of this financial year shows that total surgical activity (planned and unplanned) at Toowoomba Hospital has increased when compared to the same period last year.

Under this Government, Toowoomba Hospital has seen a significant increase in clinical staff. For example, as at November 2009, Toowoomba Hospital has had a net increase of 24 medical staff (including visiting medical officers), 270 nursing staff and 87 allied health staff from the numbers at June 2005.