

Question on Notice
No. 204
Asked on 23 April 2009

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the House of the benefits to Pine Rivers residents of the proposed upgraded emergency department at the Prince Charles' Hospital and the subsequent establishment of the Queensland Children's Hospital?

ANSWER:

I have been advised that the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) is being planned to provide the very best services for the sickest children in Queensland. Other hospitals in the greater metropolitan Brisbane region are an important component of the network of paediatric services to ensure that people in Brisbane can access paediatric services close to where they live. In February this year, a commitment was made to build a paediatric emergency department at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) in Chermside by 2012 at a cost of \$45.5M.

The new children's emergency department at the TPCH will include:

- 12 emergency treatment bays;
- a 20-bed short-stay/observation unit; and
- children's specialist clinics.

The government has also committed to upgrading the emergency departments and providing new and enhanced children's services at Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals on Brisbane's northside as well as Ipswich, Redlands and Logan hospitals on the Brisbane's south to provide improved facilities for children.

I have been informed that these services will work closely with the QCH to ensure children living in the surrounding areas, like Pine Rivers residents, are able to access health services as close to their home as possible, thereby avoiding unnecessary travel for families.

The QCH will be central to the provision of paediatric services throughout Queensland, providing support and advice for children's health services outside the South East. Its principal role will be to provide the highest level of inpatient and outpatient services to children with illnesses such as cancer or major trauma requiring highly specialised diagnostic services and treatments like heart surgery. These children will be transferred to the QCH from throughout Queensland. It will also have a critical role in supporting paediatric services across the state using the latest in telehealth technology and providing direct services through physical outreach, allowing children to be treated close to their home whenever possible.