

**Question on Notice
No. 482
Asked on 23 March 2010**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on health services for children in the Mulgrave Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Mulgrave for his question.

Paediatric specialist services are provided to all children from the Mulgrave Electorate through the Paediatric Department at Cairns Base Hospital.

The paediatric outpatient clinic at Cairns Base Hospital provides paediatric specialist outpatient services, paediatric diabetes and endocrinology specialties. In addition, there are a range of outpatient specialist services from visiting medical teams from Townsville and Brisbane which are delivered out of Cairns Base Hospital on a regular basis. These services include paediatric surgery, cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, paediatric haematology, respiratory, sleep studies, metabolic medicine, haematology oncology and paediatric cardiology.

Children requiring hospitalisation for acute care are admitted to the Paediatric Unit at Cairns Base Hospital. In some specialised cases, where Cairns Base Hospital does not have the specialist staff to care for the particular condition of a child, that service is provided by the Townsville Hospital, the Mater Children's Hospital or the Royal Children's Hospital. Examples of the types of services that fall into this category are paediatric surgery, paediatric oncology and paediatric cardiac surgery.

Specialist staff from the Paediatric Department at Cairns Base Hospital also visit Health Centres on a regular basis to case conference with community based child health staff. These case conferences provide a forum for discussion of the care of children receiving services from community health.

Outreach paediatric services are provided to Innisfail Hospital on a regular basis. This service operates out of Cairns Base Hospital and involves senior paediatric medical staff visiting Innisfail Hospital and conducting outpatient clinics for children who reside in the Innisfail/Tully areas. These clinics are conducted on a monthly basis.

Innisfail Primary Health Services include a range of community health centres providing services such as child health clinics/groups and outreach clinics, immunisation and vaccination programs, post acute care, early psychology intervention, oral health, speech pathology and family care programs including antenatal classes and positive parenting initiatives etc.

The Child Development Unit is located at Westcourt Community Health. This unit provides allied health and early intervention services to children with disability, developmental delay or to children at high risk of developing delays for example premature and low birth weight infants.