

Question on Notice
No. 527
Asked on 23 March 2010

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline and table the strategic plan, health service plan, regional plan or any other planning document detailing health priorities and proposed hospital locations for the Western Corridor (as defined under the South-East Queensland regional plan)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his question.

The Government has recognised growth in the Western Corridor and has committed \$128.7 million to expand adult and children's services at the Ipswich Hospital. This will provide an additional 90 beds including 6 short stay beds for children.

The commitment will also upgrade the Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department providing dedicated treatment space and waiting room space for children. I am advised detailed planning is currently being completed as one component of broader *Western Corridor High Growth Population Area* service planning currently underway.

The Government has also invested heavily in additional clinical staff to deal with growth. Since 2005, we have hired an additional 328 clinical staff, including 79 additional doctors and 201 nurses at Ipswich Hospital.

In addition to the detailed planning under way for Ipswich Hospital and the broader *High Growth Population Area* planning, Queensland Health is undertaking a review of the existing Queensland Statewide Health Service Plan 2007-2012. This revised plan will have a 15 year outlook to 2026 and align the Government's strategic directions to guide health service delivery reforms in the short, medium and long term.

The Plan will outline key objectives, strategies and service models to enable Queensland Health to meet future demand and identify what resources will be needed to successfully implement those strategies.