

Question on Notice
No. 547
Asked on 24 March 2010

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail any implications and any departmental advice for health services and health service planning for the Western Corridor (as defined under the South-East Queensland regional plan) relating to or arising from discussions between the Premier and the Prime Minister in relation to the proposed National Health and Hospital Network?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his question.

The Bligh 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.

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.

The National Health and Hospitals Network and the national health reform agreement reached between Premier Anna Bligh and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will deliver more money, more doctors, more nurses and other staff and more hospital infrastructure to hospitals across Queensland including in the western corridor.

I am advised the health reform agreement between Premier Anna Bligh and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will deliver for Queensland -

Better emergency departments

\$150 million to set and meet a new service delivery target of four hour treatment

This means reduced waiting times for more than 150 000 Queenslanders over the next four years

Faster elective surgery

\$160 million to ensure more Queenslanders get surgery within clinically recommended times
- rising to 4400 additional cases per year in 2013-14

More hospital beds

\$325 million for 270 new sub-acute care hospital beds over the next four years

This will provide more appropriate care for patients transitioning out of hospital (rehabilitation) and free up acute care beds for acute patients sooner

Guaranteed future growth funds

A guaranteed minimum of \$3.4 billion from 2014 to 2020 when the Commonwealth reforms take effect

Mental health

\$23 million for new community based services for young people with mental health problems

Aged care

\$148 million to meet a range of aged care services across Queensland