

Question on Notice
No. 654
Asked on 13 April 2010

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

QUESTION:

Given that Noosa Hospital has the capacity to treat an additional 725 patients per annum, and bearing in mind the Minister's statement that this government is planning for the growth of services in line with the government's significant capital commitment to the Sunshine Coast—

When will the government provide adequate funding to this PPP facility to ensure that it is able to meet the needs of the community by operating to its full potential?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Noosa for his question.

Noosa Hospital is privately owned and operated.

Each year Queensland Health pays a significant amount of money to the operators of Noosa Hospital to provide services to public patients. I am advised this amount has grown considerably since the contractual arrangement with the operators of Noosa Hospital commenced in 1999.

In the past month, the Government has announced increased funding of \$300,000 to Noosa Hospital to undertake an extra 65 elective surgery procedures by the 30 June 2010.

Also in the past month, the Bligh Government announced the commencement of the tender process for the private component of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital project. The Government also announced a raft of increased and improved services will be delivered on the Sunshine Coast prior to the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, including a cardiac catheterisation lab, a new suite for vascular surgery at Nambour, a new endoscopy procedure unit, new outpatient neurosurgery services and sustainable radiation oncology services for public patients.

By contrast, I note the Liberal National Party continues to fail to support the Government decision to deliver more beds sooner by bringing forward the private component of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital project.

The LNP won't even to commit to a timeframe for delivering the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. I refer to the Sunshine Coast Daily on 8 May 2010 which reported that the Leader of the Opposition "refused to make a policy commitment" on the hospital, and which alleged that "everything would be dependent on the state of the government's finances".

Unlike the LNP, the Bligh Government is delivering better health services to the Sunshine Coast.