

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 658**  
**Asked on 13 April 2010**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's response to Question on Notice No. 235 of 2010 and to Queensland Health's Clinical Incident Management Implementation Standard 2009 which requires Severity Assessment Code (SAC) 1 events to be notified to the Director-General within one business day—

Does the Minister consider it appropriate for a SAC1 event to first be notified to his Director-General (and to himself) more than one week after it occurs, and for this notification to occur via a patient's family contacting the Director-General's office themselves?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Nicklin for his question.

I am always pleased to provide the Honourable Member with information or explanation of matters within my portfolio responsibilities in answering Questions on Notice. However, I am not medically trained and I am unable to express a clinical judgement about the appropriateness of decisions taken by medical staff, or the complex deliberations between clinical staff that may occur prior to categorising and reporting a particular event.

Further, I note that Standing Order 115 specifically rules out of order questions seeking an expression of opinion.

However, I am able to confirm for the Member's benefit that I am advised the standard to which the Member refers confers an obligation on a relevant District Chief Executive Officer (DCEO) or equivalent to notify the Director-General within one business day of the DCEO becoming aware of a SAC 1 event.

That obligation arises from the time a DCEO becomes aware of the event. The timing and sequencing of advices up the chain of clinical staff to the DCEO will depend on the particular circumstances of the event.

As I have previously outlined for the Member, the primary purpose of the Clinical Incident Management framework is to reduce harm by learning from clinical incidents at the hospital and clinical level, not to provide a framework for briefing senior management.