

Question on Notice
No. 1055
Asked on 17 June 2011

MR SORENSEN asked the Minister for Health (MR WILSON)-

QUESTION:

When is the government going to deliver on the dental chairs promised to Hervey Bay that were announced in the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 State Budgets?

ANSWER

I thank the Honourable Member for Hervey Bay for his question.

Queensland Health is committed to improving oral health services to all entitled Queenslanders and provides the most comprehensive public oral health service in Australia with over 1.9 million people (45.3% of the total Queensland population) eligible for dental care at no cost. Public oral health services provided a total of 929,973 occasions of service in 2009/2010, with a budget expenditure of approximately \$166 million.

The Queensland Government's oral health services would have been significantly bolstered by the Gillard Government's Commonwealth Dental Health Program, which has unfortunately been stalled in the Senate by non-government members.

The Scheme would have increased funding to Queensland oral health services by \$52.8 million over four years and delivered an additional one million dental consultations Australia-wide.

I urge you to support the State Government in calling on Federal LNP members to pass this extra funding for Queenslanders.

Queensland Health is delivering more health services, sooner and closer to home for the people of Hervey Bay.

As part of our investment in new health services for regional Queensland, the Government has funded the construction of a brand-new, purpose-built public dental clinic.

Planning is well underway for construction of the new clinic, which will be co-located with the new Cancer Centre for Hervey Bay, a joint project of the Bligh and Gillard Labor Governments.

Co-location of the two new services allows the capital investment to be spent more effectively which will result in a better and more comprehensive service for the people of Hervey Bay.

The Member will be pleased to know that on 6 July 2011 a call for tenders was opened in relation to the project.