

Question on Notice
No. 110
Asked on 8 March 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise whether work has commenced on the construction of a hospital transit lounge at the Toowoomba Base Hospital and if so, what is proposed in this project and to what expected effect?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Toowoomba North for his question.

On 14 February 2011, construction commenced on the Toowoomba Hospital Transit Lounge, as part of a \$5 million expansion to the Toowoomba Hospital Emergency Department.

The project will establish a new clinical observation transit lounge located on the first floor of the Emma Webb Building to accommodate up to 12 patients awaiting discharge or transfer by ambulance and four short stay assessment beds.

The Transit Lounge will significantly contribute to improving access to beds and ensure patients ready for discharge have a fully staffed and convenient location while final arrangements are made.

It is anticipated the Transit Lounge will be completed by mid 2011.

Following this, the next stage of the Toowoomba Hospital Emergency Department Expansion will see improvements to the Emergency Department including a new clinical observation room, bariatric bathroom, communications room, upgraded triage, relocation of psychiatric and consultation rooms and provision of additional workstations for Emergency Department staff.

These enhancements will improve patient flow, operational efficiency and significantly contribute to performance targets for the Emergency Department and is anticipated for completion by late 2011.