

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1344**  
**Asked on 24 August 2011**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what capital works are currently being undertaken at the Toowoomba Base Hospital and the intended results thereof?

ANSWER:

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

The Bligh Government is delivering Australia's largest health building program and is opening new hospital wards right across the State.

We are building a healthier Queensland by delivering more services, sooner and closer to home.

Toowoomba Hospital currently has nearly \$29 million of capital works projects either in planning or under construction on site including the Adolescent Mental Health Unit, the Regional Cancer Care Centre, the Admission, Discharge and Transition Ward, Emergency Department refurbishment and an expanded adult rehabilitation service.

The new \$10.62 million Adolescent Mental Health Unit will deliver eight child and youth beds to provide better support for young patients suffering from a mental illness. A day program will also be provided as an early intervention tool for young people who need mental health care in the community. Construction is anticipated to finish in October 2011.

Construction is underway on the new \$9.55 million Toowoomba Hospital Regional Cancer Care Centre to deliver a new 24-bed ward providing 12 cancer and haematology service beds, and 12 palliative care beds by March 2012. The Day Oncology Therapy Unit will also be expanded by four additional chemotherapy chairs to provide an extra 1700 treatments per year to locals when fully operational. The cancer care centre is a significant boost for cancer care services for the Darling Downs community.

Stage 1 of the \$5 million Toowoomba Hospital Emergency Department Expansion, the Admission, Discharge and Transition Ward commenced operations on 1 August 2011 and accommodates up to 16 people. The new lounge improves the flow of patients at the hospital by freeing up hospital beds and ensuring patients who are ready to go home have access to a fully staffed, convenient location while final arrangements are made for their discharge.

Work has already begun on Stage 2 of the Emergency Department expansion to deliver a new clinical observation room, upgraded triage area, additional workstations, relocated psychiatric and consultation rooms and a refurbished patient bathroom anticipated for completion in late 2011. These enhancements will improve patient flow, operational efficiency significantly contribute to improving access to beds.

Planning is currently underway to expand subacute services at Toowoomba Hospital which includes a \$3.8 million capital component to expand the adult rehabilitation service.

Finally, the \$1 million Toowoomba Hospital birthing centre was completed in July 2010 and provides two new birthing suites which have significantly enhanced birthing choices for women in the region.