

Question on Notice
No. 40
Asked on 16 February 2011

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Health Quarterly Hospital Report, which lists 24 hospitals but not the specific financial position of each one -

Will the Minister inform the House of the state of Bundaberg Hospital's budget for each of the past five years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Bundaberg for his question.

Under the Bligh Government Queensland Health has one of the most transparent and meaningful hospital performance reporting mechanisms in Australia. This was recognised by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in New South Wales, which recommended it as a model for other States and Territories to follow.

Under the Bligh Government, more information is disclosed more often and more transparently than at any other point in Queensland history, in relation to public hospital performance. That is consistent with our commitment, exemplified by the Right to Information regime, to push information into the public domain where it serves the public interest to do so.

The Member ought to be aware that the Quarterly Performance Report is a report on hospital performance indicators. It is not a budget document. Further, the report contains data for each quarter, it is not an annual financial report.

However, at Budget time the Government publishes a range of documents containing budget information. Those budget documents are examined in detail by the Parliamentary Estimates Committee each year.

That said, I am very pleased to advise the Member that the Budget for Bundaberg Hospital has grown by over 14% for this financial year compared to last.