

Question on Notice
No. 852
Asked on 26 May 2011

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Health (MR WILSON)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how community health services are supporting and assisting young families in the Woodridge Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Woodridge for her question.

The Bligh Government is committed to providing highly specialised health services for young parents and their children across the State.

I have been advised that health services for young families in the Woodridge Electorate are provided by an integrated Child and Youth Service. This includes both Child Health and Child Development Services provided at Logan Central, Springwood Community Health Centres, Logan Hospital, and through home based care. Staffing for these teams consist of Child Health Nurses, Paediatrician/s, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Speech Pathologists and Indigenous Health Workers Services.

All families with infants and young children are able to access the Newborn and Family Drop In Clinic in Logan. This service includes an outreach clinic to the Access Refugee Centre, to provide health assessments to newly arrived refugees settling in the Logan area.

Young families in the Woodridge area are also able to access parent group sessions. These sessions assist young people in adjusting to parenting. Parent groups are also provided as part of an out reach program with non government partners such as Kingston East Neighbourhood Centre and Youth and Family Services (YFS).

Queensland Health provides a key leadership role in supporting young families in the Woodridge Electorate through shared governance of the Consortium for a Child Friendly Community. This group consists of up to 50 agencies working in partnership to ensure the needs of all children are able to be met. Queensland Health is one of the major sponsors of the Child Friendly Community Conference to be held at the end of this year in the Woodridge Electorate, to support all agencies in their efforts to achieve Child Friendly status.

The Queensland Government has allocated funding to ensure that all women have access to follow-up contact from a health professional after the birth of a baby. Universal Postnatal Contact Services ensure all mothers are provided with follow-up contact from Queensland Health in the first week following the birth of their baby.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are supported to access services with assistance from Indigenous Child Health Workers.

Queensland Health provides children with Comprehensive health assessment including growth and development assessments at key milestone ages.

This Government can ensure that young families in the Woodridge area are able to access health services closer to home including;

- General and specialised infant feeding support
- Support for sleep and settling issues and referrals to other service providers as required;
- Social Work services;
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) including seminars, groups, short consultations for specific issues such as temper tantrums and intensive parenting program for families who have been assessed as requiring a high level of parenting support;
- Post Natal Depression groups;
- 'Fun Not Fuss With Food' program, encourage tips for child friendly meals, food activities and games, healthy snack and drink ideas, information about the amounts and kind of food for children

The Family CARE Home Visiting Program offers specialist voluntary 12 month home-visits for 'at risk' families with a newborn. Risk factors include domestic violence, financial stress or maternal mood disorder. Families are home visited by a Child Health Nurse at selected times until the child turns one. Woodridge families who are identified with specific risks or needs also have access to the Health Home Visiting Program (HHVP). The HHVP is a four year pilot program and compliments the Family Care Home Visiting Program. The HHVP aims to enhance access to Child Health services for families. The program is offered to all parents/carers in the trial sites, which includes the Woodridge electorate, during the first three years of a child's life.

This Government also recognises the importance of supporting young families in achieving positive educational outcomes. The **P**arents or expecting parents who are **O**vercoming **W**ork and **E**ducation **R**estrictions (POWER) program offered at Mabel Park State High School is another program available to young parents in the Woodridge area. Education Queensland is the lead agency in this partnership, which Queensland Health supports by providing a Child Health Nurse.

The developmental needs of children who require specialist assessment and intervention are met through individualised services and group programs providing education, support and targeted care. Queensland Health is committed to ensuring that all young families in the Woodridge electorate can access health facilities sooner and closer to home.