

**Question on Notice
No. 312
Asked on 1 May 2013**

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland Health that has advised patients in Gladstone that podiatry services would cease at the Gladstone Hospital from 8 April—

Given the critical need for such care, particularly for diabetic and similar chronic disease sufferers, will the Minister review this short sighted decision especially for pensioner and low income earning residents?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gladstone for her question.

I am advised there has been no advice to patients that podiatry services at Gladstone Hospital are ceasing. The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CQHHS) continues to provide podiatry services at Gladstone Hospital to patients with high-risk foot problems through a visiting service from Rockhampton every Monday and Tuesday.

General Practitioners (GPs) in Gladstone are also able to refer Home and Community Care (HACC) eligible patients to private podiatrists for basic foot care services, using the Medicare Enhanced Primary Care Program.

There are two private podiatry practices in Gladstone which are able to meet the community's demand, including the HACC-eligible patients, for basic foot care services.

The CQHHS played a leading role in the development of the Queensland Health Podiatry Services Statement of Core Business, which was endorsed by the Director-General of Health in 2010. This Statement supports the prioritisation of more complex care issues being managed by CQHHS podiatrists, in order to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and reduce lengths of hospital stay, while patients with basic foot care needs are managed by GPs and other service providers through the Enhanced Primary Care Program.