

Question on Notice
No. 530
Asked on 7 August 2013

MR KRAUSE asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister update the Assembly on any recent developments in relation to the provision of services at the Beaudesert Hospital, including progress towards the reinstatement of maternity services?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Beaudesert for his question.

Procedural services at Beaudesert Hospital recommenced on 28 May 2013. In the last month, there has been one additional day of surgery offered to the Beaudesert community. This provides the capacity to include more complex cases for example hernia repairs under general anaesthetic, in addition to the more minor local anaesthetic cases. There are plans in the near future to further expand procedural services to include gynaecological procedures. When the service reaches full capacity later this year it will operate three days per week.

The workforce plan around the reintroduction of birthing services has progressed recently, with the successful recruitment and commencement of a Clinical Midwife Consultant / Project Officer on 15 July 2013. This senior midwifery position will be leading the recruitment of additional midwives currently being undertaken.

Once recruited, these additional midwives will expand the existing Midwifery Group Practice team and enhance the current capacity to provide continuity of midwifery care to an increasing number of Beaudesert women and their families. The inaugural birthing services steering committee will be held on 28 August 2013 at Beaudesert Hospital.

The workforce plan around the reintroduction of birthing services also identified a need to increase the number of existing senior medical officers from 6.4 to 9.0 full time equivalent positions. Thirty applications have been received for this recruitment process which is also currently being undertaken. This increased specialist medical capacity and capability includes the areas of obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgical services.

Senior staff from Beaudesert Hospital are planning to attend the local September 2013 Show Day to provide up to date information to the community and showcase the new services available at the Hospital.