

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 12**  
**Asked on 11 February 2014**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of home visits undertaken by Queensland Health midwives in the Metro North HHS (broken down by State electorate) since the introduction of the government's 'Mums and Bubs' policy and (b) what benefits this program has provided to parents and their children?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Pine Rivers for his question.

I am pleased to advise that since the introduction of the 'Mums and Bubs' policy, in the six months following implementation (from 1 April to 31 December 2013), a combined total of 5,996 home visits have been reported across the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Further to this, mothers and babies with specific health needs have received additional home visits and clinic appointments that are not specifically part of the 'Mums and Bubs' program.

The 'Mums and Bubs' policy has allowed more new mothers and families (who otherwise would have needed to travel to seek assistance) to receive support from qualified staff in the comfort of their own homes. Prior to the 'Mums and Bubs' policy, home visits were mainly delivered on a needs basis within the first week after discharge from hospital. The 'Mums and Bubs' policy has allowed for not only a greater number of families to be visited, but for this support to extend into the second week, when greater needs often arise. Following 'Mums and Bubs' visits, families are referred to Community Child Health as needed.