

Question on Notice
No. 195
Asked on 19 March 2014

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

QUESTION:

As Hervey Bay is set to get a new State and Federal Government-funded Oral Health and Cancer Care facility—

- (1) How many dental and oncology chairs will actually be incorporated in this new facility?
- (2) What other accommodation and services will it include?
- (3) When is the project going to be completed?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Hervey Bay for his question.

The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service received an injection of capital funding to construct new oral health and cancer care centres at Bundaberg and Hervey Bay, in total \$35.06 million.

The construction of these two centres will provide enhanced oral health and cancer care services locally to the community of the Wide Bay. It has been well demonstrated that where care is provided within regional areas, patients can expect better health outcomes.

Additional capacity and an expanded range of services will be provided, allowing more patients to be treated locally, forgoing long journeys to Brisbane for specialist ongoing treatment.

Recruitment of specialised staff will also be made easier as a result of these enhanced services. This has been demonstrated already by the ability of the cancer care service to recruit permanent Staff Specialists (Medical Oncology) at both Bundaberg and Hervey Bay.

Co-location of the oral health and cancer care service presents a unique opportunity for these two ambulatory services to establish integrated partnerships. It is acknowledged that many patients suffer from oral conditions during cancer treatment and this new facility will allow both oral health and cancer care to work together to improve patient outcomes.

In answer to the Member's specific questions, I can advise as follows:

- (1) In relation to the new facility, there will be 16 dental chairs and one special needs surgery, and 14 chemotherapy chairs and two isolation chairs (beds) established.
- (2) In relation to services that will be established, these include:
 - (a) the Hervey Bay Oral Health Service incorporating; a general and specialist oral health service, Schools Dental Service (SDS), a resource centre for the

promotion of oral health, and laboratory services including manufacturing of prosthesis; and

- (b) the Hervey Bay Cancer Care Centre incorporating; a multidisciplinary meeting room with videoconferencing facilities, eight specialist consultation suites, Oncology preparation pharmacy, staff offices for multidisciplinary team, and clinical education/teaching facilities.
- (3) The project has a forecast completion date of mid-2015.