

Question on Notice
No. 1692
Asked on 15 September 2016

MR RYAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK) –

Will the Minister outline to the House what measures the Palaszczuk Government has implemented to improve health care in our schools, with particular reference to the Morayfield State Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Morayfield for his question.

The Government has committed funding of \$14 million until 30 June 2019 to re-establish primary school nursing services across Queensland. A total of 31.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) nurses will be employed to deliver vision screening services to Prep children in state and independent primary schools across Queensland, as well as to promote school readiness through the conduct of capacity building activities in targeted vulnerable communities. The Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (HHS) is leading this program and will support program implementation across the State. This program has been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The service model is evidence-based and addresses the identified gaps in existing service provision.

Within the Morayfield State Electorate, Prep vision screening has recently been delivered to Carmichael College. The service will be offered to Morayfield State School, Morayfield East State School, Minimbah State School and Caboolture Special School by the end of the year and then to all primary schools in the Morayfield State Electorate in subsequent years.

In addition to Prep vision screening, community capacity building activities are also being progressed in the Caboolture/Deception Bay areas through the support of the Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program. A total of 10 communities across Queensland have initially been identified for this support. Within the Caboolture/Deception Bay area this has involved team members working closely with the Department of Education and Training's North Coast Region Transition, Innovation and Partnerships Officer to progress collaborative initiatives with a range of local stakeholders to promote and support school readiness.

The Children's Health Queensland HHS provides nursing services to state secondary schools across the greater metropolitan area including the Morayfield State Electorate. The School Based Youth Health Nurse Service is centred on early intervention, harm minimisation and preventative health. The nurses in the service promote positive health outcomes for young people through the delivery of accessible, acceptable, appropriate and culturally respectful primary health care to young people. They provide an opportunity for young people and their parents/carers to access a health professional in the school setting for matters relating to the health and wellbeing of young people. They also support school communities to adopt a whole of school approach to address contemporary health and social issues facing young people in order to help young people make a safe and healthy transition into adulthood.