

Question on Notice

No. 1030

Asked on 23 August 2018

MR S ANDREW asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to the 2018-19 Budget record spending on health—

Will the Minister advise (a) how the record spending will be distributed in the regions' Hospital and Health Services (HHS), in particular in the Mirani Electorate where certain hospitals operate with a skeleton crew and (b) how funding is evenly distributed based on need?

ANSWER

(a)

Hospital and Health Service (HHS)	2018-19 operating budget (\$million)
Cairns and Hinterland HHS	936.7
Central Queensland HHS	610.4
Central West HHS	76.7
Children's Health Queensland HHS	757.2
Darling Downs HHS	801.1
Gold Coast HHS	1,493.6
Mackay HHS	441.7
Metro North HHS	2,838.2
Metro South HHS	2,408.2
North West HHS	182.0
South West HHS	149.9
Sunshine Coast HHS	1,196.2
Torres and Cape HHS	213.7
Townsville HHS	983.8
West Moreton HHS	607.1
Wide Bay HHS	614.9

The Mackay HHS has an operating budget of \$441.7 million in 2018-19, which is an increase of \$26.7 million or 6.4 per cent from its operating budget in 2017-18.

The additional funding for Mackay HHS in 2018-19 includes funding to support the projected growth in demand for services, including emergency department, elective surgery and outpatients. It also includes funding of \$2.1 million to support community mental health treatment services in the region, as well as continuing operating funding to deliver Nurse Navigator roles, optimise the Digital Hospital clinical information technology solutions, and progress initiatives to improve health outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander population.

Capital funding in 2018-19 for the region includes \$5.5 million out of a \$16.5 million total spend on the Sarina Hospital redevelopment, and \$4.1 million out of a \$4.9 million total spend on the Mackay Step Up Step Down facility.

Other capital investments include significant facility upgrades to support contemporary service delivery in the region. In 2018-19, this includes funding of \$2.8 million for mechanical and electrical upgrades at Proserpine Hospital, \$1.2 million to replace air-conditioning at Mackay Hospital, and \$400,000 to upgrade the Bowen Hospital roof.

- (b) The Department of Health's funding decisions are shaped by the following priorities:
- redressing health inequities by allocating funding across providers (based on the population health status which includes the burden of disease), so that equal resources are provided for equal need, and investing in services that will help address inequality of health outcomes;
 - supporting delivery of higher value health services that maximise the health outcomes achieved;
 - changing the burden of disease trajectory by investing in health care that prevents or slows the advent and progression of chronic conditions;
 - addressing system challenges by targeted investment in key activities and services; and
 - ensuring unavoidable hospital activity is sufficiently resourced so as to maintain timely access to services.