

Question on Notice

No. 876

Asked on 15 June 2018

MR E SORENSEN asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION

With reference to Hervey Bay residents that have been transferred to Childers Hospital from Hervey Bay Hospital for rehabilitative care, because of the lack of beds—

Will the Minister advise when the Labor Government will increase the bed capacity at Hervey Bay Hospital, so elderly patients who have trouble with reliable transport, do not have to be so far away from their families?

ANSWER

I am advised that Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service assesses a patient's clinical needs as a matter of routine. If acute care from the Hervey Bay Hospital is no longer required, the patient will be considered for inter-facility transfer to either Maryborough Hospital or one of its rural facilities, including the Childers Multi-Purpose Health Service (MPHS).

This has been the practice for quite some time, including under the previous LNP government.

The Childers MPHS is equipped and resourced to provide subacute rehabilitative care, acknowledging that all rural facilities across the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service area are utilised for step down subacute patient care as required.

A patient's health and wellbeing is considered at all times before the decision to transfer a patient to a rural facility, and this is discussed with the patient and their immediate family.