

Question on Notice

No. 408

Asked on 28 March 2019

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

QUESTION

With reference to elderly and young people from my electorate being forced to travel because of lack of health services in Hervey Bay e.g. the service of platelet infusions for cancer/blood disease sufferers—

Will the Minister advise (a) when Hervey Bay will be able to treat these patients locally and (b) why the government continue to term these patients as low priority, when there is no service for them in Hervey Bay?

ANSWER

I am advised that the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Cancer Care Service provides locally-based Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Palliative Care services.

Haematology or Haematology Oncology Services are accessible via Telehealth. In March 2017, the Hervey Bay Cancer Care Service introduced a new Haematology Telehealth clinic service. Telehealth allows patients to access specialist care locally, negating the requirement to travel long distances to receive their treatment at a tertiary facility. This is a collaboration between the Wide Bay HHS Cancer Care Service and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Haematology specialist team. Using video-conferencing, patients can access face-to-face specialist review from a Consultant Haematologist at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, without having to travel outside of Hervey Bay. All of the patients currently accessing the Hervey Bay Telehealth service have a chronic haematological condition requiring regular follow-up appointments.