

Question on Notice
No. 941
Asked on 12 June 2019

MRS J GILBERT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION AND TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON K JONES) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the growth of Queensland's clinical trials sector?

ANSWER:

Mackay was the first city in regional Queensland to conduct clinical trials.

The Mackay-based clinical trial research facility, the Coral Sea Clinical Research Institute (CSCRI), was established in July 2018 by Dr James Daveson. With funding support from the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, CSCRI has been able to successfully establish itself within Mackay and commenced delivering clinical trial activities from December 2018.

By leveraging connections in international clinical trial participation, CSCRI has quickly established itself as a lead recruiter for these trials both nationally and globally, lifting the profile of CSCRI onto the world stage. Since January 2019, CSCRI has engaged with nine other international biopharmaceuticals exploring 12 further clinical trials. Site visits and approvals have been successfully completed for four of these with start-up expected to commence in late 2019.

CSCRI has directly nurtured and offered training for the unique skillsets required in the clinical trial industry with the development of nine new positions within the region. This has indirectly exposed the local health service to international clinical trial participation, resulting in increased regional health knowledge of diseases and emerging therapies.

The flow on effects to other industries has been significant and examples include reduced freight and transport costs locally and internationally, increased health service utilisation with increased participation of other specialist and facility services, and increased utilisation of accommodation and tourism service industries.

Throughout the state, pre-clinical and clinical trial developments continue to demonstrate the quality of Queensland research, underpinned by our strong biomedical industry, contributing \$1.44 billion to the state economy with the potential to grow by almost 40 per cent by 2027.