

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 701**

**Asked on 27 May 2021**

**MRS L GERBER** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the Minister's answer to Question on Notice No. 468 for 2021, in particular the last paragraph of the Minister's answer and given that new equipment may be required to test for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) in Queensland—

Will the Minister consider sending laboratory samples from the Newborn Screening Program to other jurisdictions in the interim, like the South Australian Clinical Genetics Service, which would minimise the impact of any lead time and hasten the ability for Queensland newborns to be tested for SMA?

### **ANSWER**

I am advised that sending samples to South Australia as suggested is not a viable option in relation to spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) screening. The only state that can currently test for SMA at scale is New South Wales through their pilot study and they would not be able to manage a 50 per cent increase in samples from Queensland each week.