

Question on Notice

No. 264

Asked on 29 March 2022

MR J KRAUSE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Health birthing services being closed—
Will the Minister advise (a) the name of each birthing service closed between 1996 and 1 March 2022 and (b) the date that each birthing service was closed?

ANSWER

Queensland is one of the safest places in the world to give birth, no matter where you live, and we're doing all we can to improve maternity services even more.

In August 2018, the former Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services established the Queensland Rural Maternity Taskforce to consider the provision of safe and accessible maternity services in rural and remote areas. The Taskforce had two key deliverables: a report on the safety of current rural maternity services in Queensland, and the development of a decision-support guide, known as the Rural and Remote Maternity Services Planning Framework (the framework) to support Hospital and Health Services in planning, evaluating, improving and re-configuring rural and remote maternity services. The framework includes essential steps in engaging with consumers and the local community using a co-design approach.

The framework was drafted and subsequently piloted in Bowen, Theodore and Weipa. Following feedback from the pilot, it was amended and accompanying resources were developed and provided to Hospital and Health Services on 17 June 2021.

The Rural Maternity Taskforce Report, published online in July 2019 provides data and information regarding the ceasing of public birthing services in Queensland from 1996 to 2017 and is still current. This report is available online at:

<https://clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/priority-areas/patient-experience/maternity-service-improvement/rural-maternity> - Appendix G, page 103.

I am advised that the following facilities have re-commenced or opened birthing services

Health Service	Location	Ceased	Re-commenced / opened
Darling Downs	Chinchilla	2012	2013 (currently only antenatal and postnatal services due to recruitment issues)
Metro South	Beaudesert	2004	2014
	Redland	New	1999

Sunshine Coast	Sunshine Coast University	New	2017
Torres and Cape	Cooktown	2001	2015
	Weipa	1999	To re-open late 2022
Townsville	Ingham	2005	2016