

Question on Notice

No. 1021

Asked on 12 September 2023

MR M HART ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Palm Beach Community Health Centre, 9 Fifth Avenue Palm Beach—

Will the Minister advise (a) the reason for its closure, (b) how long the closure will be for (c) have the staff been retained or made redundant and (d) an assurance that the building will reopen for its previous services?

ANSWER

I am advised that the temporary closure of the Palm Beach Community Centre relates to the renewal and replacement of engineering assets and associated infrastructure including the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system supported by the Sustaining Capital investment program.

I am advised the staff and community services operating from Palm Beach have been retained, with a temporary relocation of staff and resources to ensure clinical services continue. Clinical services offered at the Centre will be temporarily relocated to facilities at Robina, Carrara, Varsity Lakes, and Coolangatta. The Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service has taken steps to ensure patients accessing these services have been notified.

The Palm Beach Community Health Centre was constructed in 1996. Given the age of the facility and proximity to the ocean, the engineering assets and associated infrastructure have reached or are nearing the end of their useful life including the entire HVAC system.

Whilst the HVAC replacement is underway, the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service is undertaking additional works to enhance electrical systems and infrastructure to enhance the facility to current standards and regulations. Given the intrusive nature of the works at Palm Beach Community Health Centre, it is not safe to occupy or deliver health services from the building during these essential upgrades.

At this time, the program will require the building to be closed for up to 12 months, commencing October 2023 with a completion target for October 2024. There are no job losses resulting from this project.

The Palm Beach Community Centre is a key asset for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service in delivering services to the community. The relocation and

recommencement of services from Palm Beach Community Centre is anticipated to resume by October 2024.

The renewal of the HVAC system and associated infrastructure upgrades at Palm Beach Community Centre are essential for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service to meet community needs now and into the future.