

Question on Notice

No. 1180

Asked on 10 October 2023

DR A MACMAHON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to children and adolescents with cancer and their families—

Will the Minister advise if the government is planning to follow the lead of other states and establish a survivorship clinic for ongoing monitoring and support?

ANSWER

I am committed to providing world-leading cancer care in Queensland for all Queenslanders, including children and young people with cancer and their families.

In a time where treatments are constantly improving most children and young people who experience cancer go on to live full lives. With more cancer survivors than ever before, world-leading cancer care means considering life after cancer.

Queensland already has many successful survivorship services for children and young people, such as the After Cancer Health and Wellness Adolescent and Young Adult Service (ARCHWAYS). This is a virtual service that delivers multidisciplinary care to young people across the state, connecting young cancer survivors to community support services.

We also have the Queensland Youth Cancer Service. This is a statewide program coordinated by Children's Health Queensland that supports adolescents and young adults aged 15-25 and their families throughout cancer treatment, helps to reconnect young people with their lives after cancer treatment and helps to coordinate ongoing care for young people as they transition from paediatric to adult services. The service links young people with ongoing supports post-treatment to help them maintain their future health.

I am also pleased to advise Queensland Health is currently developing a networked service model for cancer care services focused on meeting demand and connecting services to deliver care as close to home as clinically appropriate. This model, which aligns with the National Cancer Plan, will include a focus on survivorship and will consider the specific needs of children and young people.

In addition, the new Queensland Cancer Centre will transform experiences and outcomes for Queenslanders with cancer by increasing local translational research, providing new cancer treatment using emerging technologies, and providing exceptional, equitable care. This will include treating children with new therapies like theranostics and proton beam therapy and providing a new home for the Sony You

Can Centre for adolescents receiving cancer treatment within Queensland Cancer Centre.

As part of the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy, planning is underway for a fertility preservation service which will allow children and young people undergoing cancer treatments that impact fertility the best possible chance of starting their own families later in life.