

Question on Notice

No. 770

Asked on 14 June 2023

MRS L GERBER ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the tragic death of 23-year-old Bella in November 2022 after contracting Meningococcal B and cases of the Meningococcal B strain continuing to rise in Queensland, resulting in serious health complications and tragically, deaths for young Queenslanders—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the Queensland government will move to protect young Queenslanders from this awful disease by funding the Meningococcal B vaccine in the Queensland School Immunisation Program like South Australia has done, (b) why the Queensland Government is waiting for the Federal Government to include the Meningococcal B vaccine on the National Immunisation Program Schedule when the Queensland Government could fund the vaccine in the Queensland School Immunisation Program like South Australia has done and (c) has the Minister written to the federal Minister for Health, the Honourable Mark Butler MP, about this important issue?

ANSWER

I thank the member for her advocacy. Bella's death as a result of meningococcal B infection is a tragedy and I extend my deepest condolences to Bella's family and friends.

I have written to the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care in relation to this issue. I have also recently met with families who have been affected by meningococcal to discuss funding of the Meningococcal B vaccine and South Australia's immunisation program.