

Question on Notice

No. 883

Asked on 22 August 2023

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what the strategic plans are for a health facility in the Lockyer region to meet the existing and forecast population growth and growing demand for health services?

ANSWER

The Lockyer Valley community is serviced by West Moreton Hospital and Health Service's Gatton and Laidley hospitals and the broader Queensland Health hospital network.

Our networked healthcare system is designed to ensure people living in regional and rural areas can receive safe, timely, high-quality care, based on their needs and preferences.

Where clinically appropriate, this allows Lockyer Valley residents to have their treatment managed by medical specialists in larger centres while staying closer to home.

Clinicians at Gatton and Laidley hospitals also work routinely with other primary healthcare providers in the region, including private GP practices, pathology labs and radiology clinics, to ensure residents have access to the services they need.

The health needs of communities are regularly reviewed, and service planning is undertaken frequently to meet changing needs.

On 31 August 2023, I announced Laidley Hospital had been included in the Queensland Government's Building Rural and Remote Health Program.

This investment at Laidley Hospital is an opportunity to improve the existing health facility to ensure it can continue to support the significant growth and development expected in the area in coming years.

Planning will begin immediately, and construction is expected to commence in mid-2024.

In May 2023, West Moreton Health announced it had opened an extra six beds at Gatton Hospital.

These beds allow patients to transition from acute care at Ipswich Hospital to community-based services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Patients continue to receive virtual support from Ipswich Hospital clinicians while also being under the care of treating teams at Gatton Hospital