

Question on Notice

No. 536

Asked on 13 May 2026

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Noosa Dental Clinic—

Will the Minister advise (a) whether sessional or visiting clinicians are being considered, rather than closure to support the continuation of local public dental services, (b) whether adding 2 extra chairs has been assessed to address the extensive waitlists and bring operational costs in line with 4 chair clinics such as Nambour Dental Clinic, (c) whether mobile clinic services operated by SCHHS could be delivered in Noosa and (d) what reforms are being considered to develop sustainable public dental funding in QLD and address the recruitment difficulties?

ANSWER

- (a) I am advised visiting clinicians are already being utilised at the Noosa Dental Clinic to support service provision. I am advised these clinicians are being redirected from other locations where there is also demand for care.
- (b) I am further advised that the addition of two extra dental chairs is not feasible because other health services currently fully utilise the available space within the Noosa Community Health Centre.
- (c) Mobile dental clinic services operated by the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service are currently used to deliver services to children in school settings. I am advised there are no plans to redirect these mobile services to Noosa to provide adult dental services. Dental vouchers continue to be made available to eligible patients to reach care in private dental clinics, where appropriate.
- (d) While Queensland Health provides the majority of funding for public oral health services delivered through hospital and health services, Commonwealth funding under the Federation Funding Agreement and the Child Dental Benefits Schedule also plays an important role. Commonwealth funding under the Federation Funding Agreement for public dental services for adults has remained unchanged since 2017. The department regularly reviews the oral health funding allocation model to support consistent, equitable and timely access to public dental services for eligible Queenslanders.