

Question on Notice

No. 815

Asked on 25 June 2026

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the proposed Cairns Hospital redevelopment and the future of the Australian Red Cross Wellbeing Centre (Pat Gosper Place), which provides affordable accommodation for regional and remote patients receiving medical treatment—

Will the Minister advise (a) whether the Wellbeing Centre will be retained, relocated or demolished, (b) if relocated, where the replacement facility will be located, whether it will remain within walking distance of Cairns Hospital, and when the relocation will occur, (c) what arrangements will be made to ensure there is no interruption to patient accommodation or additional out-of-pocket costs during the transition and (d) whether existing staff positions at the Wellbeing Centre will be retained?

ANSWER

In February 2026, the Crisafulli Government announced the Cairns Hospital Campus Master Plan along with the more than \$1 billion investment in expanding the Cairns Hospital.

The Cairns Hospital is the primary referral hospital for the Far North and is currently landlocked. Acquisition processes are underway to enable the hospital to continue to grow to meet the future health care needs of the Far North.

The Australian Red Cross Wellbeing Centre is located in the footprint of the new Cairns Health Innovation & Surgical Centre that is the centrepiece of Stage 1 of the Master Plan, which delivers four new operating theatres, 40 additional overnight beds, outpatient capacity and an innovation, education and research centre.

The Australian Red Cross is a valued partner of Queensland Health. I am advised both parties are working collaboratively to ensure the Wellbeing Centre is rebuilt as part of the acquisition process.

I am further advised that the Australian Red Cross and Queensland Health have been working collaboratively and are well advanced in discussions and planning to secure a suitable alternative permanent site as well as working on an interim accommodation solution whilst construction is underway.

As the Australian Red Cross is an independent entity, I am unable to comment on their operational and staffing decisions.