



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Health

24 OCT 2008

MI157385 / MI157386
MO: H/08/07565 / H/08/07566

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters dated 27 and 29 August 2008, regarding Petition Nos. 1094-08 & 1104-08 in relation to the Senior Breast Care Nurse position in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Health Service District.

I am advised by Ms Michelle McKay, District Manager, Toowoomba and Darling Downs Health Service District, that during 2007 a draft model of care for the delivery of cancer services was developed in consultation with a committee of key stakeholders. This committee included representatives from the Queensland Cancer Council, Cancer Screening Services Unit and Surgical Specialists.

I advise that additional State Government funding was provided in late 2007 which enabled Toowoomba Hospital to work with the steering committee to realign the model of care to incorporate the Cancer Care Coordinators at a Nursing Officer 4 level. The staff member previously appointed in a temporary capacity in the Breast Care Nurse position was permanently appointed at Nursing Officer 4 level in late 2007 and is continuing in the role.

The model for Toowoomba and Darling Downs Health Service District Cancer Care Service has now been endorsed by the members of the Steering Committee. This model includes the Senior Breast Care Nurse Position being maintained at the NO4 level and providing specialist services to patients from both the local Toowoomba and wider catchment areas.

I am further advised the service has employed additional new nursing and allied health positions to provide specialised treatment, psychosocial and supportive care for both inpatient and ambulatory care settings. The steering committee continues to work closely with key stakeholders and other public, private and non-government organisations to further improve cancer care.

19th Floor State Health Building
147-163 Charlotte Street Brisbane
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3234 1191
Facsimile +61 7 3229 4731
Email health@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.health.qld.gov.au

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Ms Linda Hardy, Executive Director, Toowoomba Health Service, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 4616 5695.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a cursive representation of the name Stephen Robertson.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP