

MI110354
2391-0181-001

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 27 March 2003, enclosing a petition from the residents of Caloundra received by the House on 25 March 2003, regarding the Caloundra Health Service. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I am advised by the District Manager, Sunshine Coast Health Service District, that service provision and staffing levels at Caloundra have increased considerably since that time aided by an additional \$1 million funding in the 2001/2002 financial year and a further \$650,000 in 2002/2003.

One of the major enhancements at Caloundra has been the expansion of the Department of Emergency Medicine, which included the provision of a 24 hour service. The Department of Emergency Medicine at Caloundra is currently treating an average of 1200 patients each month and the number is increasing.

I am further advised that both theatres are available for use and the second theatre is used on a needs basis. There has also been an increase in the number of specialists visiting the Hospital providing clinic services, ward rounds, and operating theatre sessions. Increased Specialist Outpatient Clinics have been provided in a range of specialties.

The provision of outpatient physiotherapy services by acute care facilities is determined by clinical priority. Therefore, outpatient physiotherapy services are provided to patients in acute/sub-acute priority groups at Caloundra.

The rehabilitation unit for the Sunshine Coast Health Service District has been relocated to the purpose-built 17 bed unit at Caloundra and has been fully operational since 9 September 2002.

I am further advised that the waiting time for general dental treatment at Caloundra has increased due to an increased demand and the difficulties the District has had in recruiting Dentists. Some emergency dental services were outsourced to the private sector until full staff complements were recruited. All patients presenting for emergency dental treatment are treated according to clinical priority.

It is recognised that the Sunshine Coast, including Caloundra, is a rapid growth area. The Sunshine Coast Health Service District has been developing a Master Plan to ensure a planned approach is taken to providing health care services in line with population growth, changes in demographics, and advances in medical technology. Therefore, the Caloundra Health Service will continue to be expanded and enhanced in line with service needs and District priorities.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Signed

Wendy Edmond MP
Minister for Health and
Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy