



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Deputy Premier  
Minister for Health

20 DEC 2010

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter dated 23 November 2010 regarding Petition No 1578-10. The Petition requests the rollout of certain dental vans be sped up to provide increased access to dental care for residents living in aged care facilities.

Queensland Health has plans in place to construct six of the new large Double Surgery Mobile Community Dental Clinics (DSMCDC) at this time. To date, construction of four vans has been completed with construction of the final two to be completed by April 2011.

Unfortunately, most residential aged care facilities do not have suitable dedicated areas to enable location of a DSMCDC on site. Alternatives to dedicated site pads, such as residential aged care facilities' car parks, footpaths or streets, usually have very limited space. Therefore, the petitioners' proposal is not in itself a complete response to the service needs of aged care patients.

Queensland Health districts employ a number of strategies to facilitate delivery of oral health services to residents in aged care facilities:

- Examination, assessment and preventive services are provided onsite to patients at Residential Aged Care Facilities.
- Treatment of Residential Aged Care Facility residents at their nearest Community or Hospital Dental Clinic. Transport is typically organised by the Residential Aged Care Facility.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP**  
**Acting Minister for Health**

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