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Mr N Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 1 May 2003, enclosing a petition on behalf of residents of the Johnstone Shire, regarding the relocation of the Innisfail Child Health Service to the hospital campus.

I am advised by the Acting District Manager, Innisfail Health Service District that relocation of the Child Health Service to the hospital campus will not affect the services currently provided to families and their children. Please be assured the same services will continue to be provided by dedicated and specialised staff. In addition, public bus transport services to the hospital includes daily services Monday to Friday to Rankin Street and Fitzgerald Esplanade. This bus service encompasses a set timetable which allows a drop-off or pick-up service from any point along these routes.

Queensland Health has been very receptive to input from the Child and Family User Reference Group and has made many changes to accommodate suggestions and requests to ensure the best outcome. One such change has been to ensure that a separate reception and clinical area is maintained away from other services in the same building thus ensuring privacy. The child health reception counter will not be shared with other Community Health clients who access mental health services or the needle exchange program.

Enhancements to the design of the Child Health Clinic, as suggested by the User Reference Group, includes additional level under cover parking provision and separate rear access to the Child Health Clinic.

In addition to the needs of the mothers, families and children that use the Child Health Service, the needs of the clinic staff have also been paramount. Having only one practitioner in the facility at any given time, due to service provision or home visits, has meant that staff safety and security issues are of critical concern. Relocating to the hospital campus will provide a safer environment for staff, while also providing improved service integration for all women's and children's health services.

The full audit regarding the proposal to relocate the services has been made available to the User Reference Group and the process has been open and consultative. The Innisfail Health Service District will continue to welcome input from the User Reference Group and all concerned community members.

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

Yours sincerely

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