



2 MAY 2011

Office of the **Minister for Health**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 8 April 2011, regarding Petition No. 1667-11 concerning a full dialysis service at Gladstone Hospital.

I am pleased to advise that Premier Anna Bligh recently announced Gladstone locals will soon be able to have dialysis treatment closer to home with the Queensland Government entering into a \$2 million partnership with QGC Pty Limited.

QGC will fund the construction of a new satellite renal unit at the Gladstone Hospital facility and the early training of local staff. Queensland Health will fund the ongoing operation of this new clinical service.

The three-chair renal unit is expected to be up and running by the end of this year. When fully established, up to 60 locals from the Gladstone area are expected to benefit. It will be staffed by a dedicated team of specially trained and highly skilled renal nurses supported by the existing renal unit at the Rockhampton Hospital. Initially, clinicians will travel from Rockhampton to Gladstone to support the new unit and help train local staff, with the aim of creating a sustainable service within two years.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health