



- 2 SEP 2011

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 regarding petition number 1735-11, tabled in Parliament on 3 August 2011, concerning Health Community Councils.

The four year terms of Health Community Council (HCC) members ended on 8 July 2011. Through the health reforms currently underway in Queensland, the Government is committed to putting in place robust mechanisms to ensure that strong community representation is included in the governance, planning and delivery of health services.

Local Health and Hospital Networks (LHHN) led by local Governing Councils, will be established from 1 July 2012. Under the new Health and Hospitals Network Bill (the Bill), tabled in Parliament on 16 June 2011, LHHNs will be responsible for developing and publishing their own local consumer and community engagement strategies.

Queensland Health has undertaken a number of activities to consult with former HCC members in relation to these health reforms:

- HCC members were invited to participate in consultation on boundaries for Central Queensland in meetings in Rockhampton on 8 October 2010;
- Health Consumers Queensland (HCQ) has been requested by the Minister to work with health service districts, local communities and other stakeholders over the next 12 months to develop a framework for consumer and community engagement, to assist districts and LHHNs in this key role. HCQ has written to former HCC members to encourage their participation in this process and interested community members can join HCQ's consumer network at http://www.health.qld.gov.au/hcq/network_reps/cons_network.asp;
- A forum was held with HCC Chairs and other community groups on 3 June 2011 to discuss the proposed changes; and
- Central Queensland Health Service District is undertaking consultations with community members including former HCCs in relation to health service planning for the district and is working in partnership with HCQ to develop the framework.

Queensland Health is undertaking a comprehensive recruitment campaign for the LHHN Governing Councils. Applications will close on 21 October 2011.

Former HCC members with relevant qualifications are encouraged to apply.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Wilson', written in a cursive style.

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health