



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

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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 1863-12 tabled in Parliament on 16 February 2012, in relation to the availability of Bibles to patients in Queensland public hospitals.

I am advised that Bibles are available at all Queensland public hospitals. Decisions surrounding Bible placement are not influenced by political, multicultural considerations or matters of infection control.

In some hospitals they are kept in bedside cabinets or on nearby shelving, while in others they are supplied on request from staff or Chaplains. A benefit of supplying Bibles on request is that they are delivered by Chaplains who are then able to spend time with patients, and find out if they have any other spiritual or emotional needs.

Most hospitals have a pastoral care team of representatives from various religious groups. They offer advice, guidance and support and will help anyone regardless of their religious affiliation.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely


LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health