



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP  
Minister for Health

- 3 DEC 2012

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to petition number 2013-12, tabled in Parliament on 22 August 2012, in relation to Pathology Queensland services to Maryborough Hospital.

The Government is committed to providing more efficient and effective health services to the people of Queensland. To ensure that this commitment is delivered, changes are required in all areas including Pathology Queensland.

I can assure the petitioners that steps are being taken to provide appropriate pathology services to the Maryborough Hospital. Any changes made to pathology services fully consider quality of care and patient safety.

Bedside chemistry testing is available in the Maryborough Hospital emergency department using state of the art Point of Care instrumentation. The instrument is available to all Maryborough Hospital patients for most tests that require urgent results.

When tests cannot be performed on the Point of Care instrument the specimens will be transported to the new purpose built Hervey Bay laboratory via courier network.

The current courier arrangements between the Maryborough Hospital and the Hervey Bay laboratory are to be enhanced with additional services on week days and weekends. Monday to Friday couriers will be scheduled approximately every two hours from 0800 to 1700.

The Hervey Bay Laboratory is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the specimens will be tested immediately on arrival.

I want to assure you that consultation with hospital clinicians will continue as will ongoing monitoring of laboratory service performance indicators, such as turnaround time.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

  
**LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP**  
**Minister for Health**