



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

- 4 JUL 2013

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

Level 19
147-163 Charlotte Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3234 1191
Facsimile +61 7 3229 4731
Email health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2048-13, tabled in Parliament on 4 June 2013, in relation to the possible loss of front-line health services at the Morven Community/Outpatient Clinic.

The Morven township, population 160, is serviced by a schedule of visiting medical, allied health and community nursing staff from the Augathella Multipurpose Health Service. The Medical Superintendent with Right to Private Practice from Augathella also visits weekly to conduct a clinic. Continuity of vital frontline multi-disciplinary health services is assured and being maintained at the Morven Community/Outpatient Clinic through this service delivery model.

Service provision is based on community need and the new staffing model provides additional nursing and allied health services that more appropriately meet the identified health needs of the Morven community. This contemporary model of care provides a more effective, sustainable and best practice service provision approach for a small community such as Morven. Reinstatement of a "Director of Nursing" role would not, in itself, ensure appropriate frontline multi-disciplinary service provision for the Morven community.

A town based voluntary ambulance service is available and - co-ordinated by the Queensland Ambulance Service - is independent of the Community/Outpatient Clinic.

The South West Hospital and Health Service is currently undertaking a service planning process to inform appropriate models of care across the entire South West Hospital and Health Service catchment.

Additionally, the Department of Health and the State-wide Rural and Remote Clinical Network - in collaboration with other relevant external stakeholders - is currently seeking feedback on a number of rural and remote health service framework/planning documents:

- Safe applicable healthcare for rural and remote areas of Queensland - authored by Dr Bruce Chater
- Queensland rural and remote health service framework - developed by the Department of Health
- Queensland rural and remote health service mapping spreadsheet - developed by the Department of Health
- Queensland rural and remote health service map - developed by the Department of Health
- Queensland rural and remote health service planning process - developed by the Department of Health.

These draft documents can be viewed at http://www.health.qld.gov.au/hsp/html/rural_feedback.asp and consultation on these documents closes on Friday 12 July 2013.

The documents are being finalised by the Department of Health in collaboration with Dr Bruce Chater and the Rural and Remote Clinical Network. The finalised documents will provide a baseline minimum service standard for rural and remote health services such as Morven and other similar facilities to ensure continuity of care and sustainable service delivery models that support the aims of the *Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland*.

I am confident that these two consultative planning processes will ensure an appropriate health service response is planned for, and provided to Morven that meets identified health needs now, and into the future.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Springborg', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health