



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

20 MAY 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letters regarding petition numbers 2094-13 and 1994-12 tabled in Parliament on 18 April and 30 April 2013 respectively, in relation to a request to reverse the decision to close the Wynnum Hospital and the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to the petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

Commencing 1 July 2012, the implementation of the National Health Reform Agreement resulted in responsibility for the delivery of public health services in Queensland being devolved to 17 independent Hospital and Health Services, each governed by its own Hospital and Health Board.

The Metro South Hospital and Health Service (Metro South Health), which has responsibility for the Wynnum Hospital and the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, is committed to providing safe, effective and quality health services to the local community, now and into the future.

Metro South Health also has responsibility for hospitals and health services across the Brisbane South, Logan, Beaudesert, Wynnum and Bayside areas and accordingly it makes decisions regarding these services following careful demographic planning.

Metro South Health has a long term vision to develop a new Health and Community Precinct for the Wynnum area. This Precinct will be located at a local site yet to be determined, in partnership with the private sector in keeping with the policy direction outlined in the Government's *Blueprint For Better Health Care in Queensland 2013*. It is envisaged that the Precinct will be a contemporary mixed health facility, equipped to deliver better quality care and more appropriate services for the local community.

The services currently provided at Wynnum Hospital will continue until any proposal to expand the functions into a new Health and Community precinct is considered by the Government. There will be no "closure" or loss of services in the Bayside area as a result of the changes. Wynnum Hospital will continue to operate "as is" until the new Precinct is established, which is likely to be in several years time.

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The Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit was closed on 17 May 2013, after independent assessment showed that its neglected condition was beyond economic repair. All residents have been transferred to alternate suitable contemporary accommodation.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health