



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

20 APR 2017

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie Neil,

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2735-17, tabled in Parliament on 22 March 2017, in relation to dialysis treatment in Charters Towers.

Successive Government have worked with local communities to deploy medical infrastructure, technology, and human and financial resources as close to where Queenslanders live as is possible. The Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) manages health service delivery for the Charters Towers community and makes decisions about what services are available at that facility and can be delivered safely.

The Charters Towers Hospital is a 25 bed facility, which provides a range of services to the community including accident and emergency care, general in-patient medical, surgical, obstetric and paediatric services. The hospital also provides a range of support services including medical imaging, visiting medical specialty services, pharmacy, dietetics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and other allied health services. Primary health and community services provided include outreach services, women's clinics, oral health, child health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services.

The Townsville HHS has advised me that patients from Charters Towers requiring haemodialysis access their care at The Townsville Hospital (TTH) in the dedicated renal dialysis unit under the care of specialist renal clinicians. There are currently three patients in the Charters Towers and western region who travel regularly for haemodialysis at TTH. These patients require complex renal care, and are not deemed clinically suitable for self-dialysis at home or at a satellite service in Charters Towers.

I am also advised the number of Charters Towers patients requiring haemodialysis has been at a similar volume for the past five years, and there is currently no indication that numbers are expected to increase in the near future. Patients who meet the clinical criteria for home-dialysis would be supported to dialyse at home or closer to home, in Charters Towers wherever possible.

Patients who travel for treatment are eligible for the Queensland Government's Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and in instances of an emergency, retrieval services would be engaged.

As I have over the course of this parliamentary term, I will continue to work with the Member for Dalrymple to ensure the delivery of high quality health care to residents in his electorate.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CAMERON DICK MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services