

MI119675

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 23 April 2004, enclosing a petition received by the House on 22 April 2004, regarding access to public radiation therapy services on the Sunshine Coast.

Prior to the commencement of a private radiation therapy service in Nambour in 2001, all Sunshine Coast residents requiring radiation therapy services travelled to Brisbane for their treatment. Since that time, the number of people travelling to Brisbane has reduced considerably.

Improvements in services for the prevention and treatment of cancer was an integral part of the Government's election commitments. Included in that commitment was the allocation of \$1 million each year to the Nambour Hospital to facilitate public access to the private facility and further reduce the numbers of patients required to travel to Brisbane.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

GORDON NUTTALL MP
Minister for Health
Member for Sandgate