



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
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18 OCT 2019

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3197-19, tabled in Parliament on 18 September 2019, in relation to a health service for Mount Garnet.

Supporting a sustainable workforce in rural and remote Queensland is a priority for Queensland Health. Initiatives are outlined in the Advancing rural and remote service delivery through workforce: A strategy for Queensland 2017-2020 with implementation aligned to broader Queensland Health strategies, planning and frameworks.

The Mount Garnet Primary Health Centre is a nurse-led primary care clinic with nurse-led services provided Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). The Centre hosts other public and private visiting services.

Providing GP services in the community is the responsibility of the Federal government through the funding of Primary Health Networks which are tasked to coordinate primary and preventative healthcare.

Queensland Health does not have control over arrangements between the MSRPP and the private practice in Ravenshoe, or the business arrangements within that private practice. Unfortunately, the Cairns and Hinterland HHS has no authority to direct the private practice to increase or reduce GP services in Mount Garnet.

However, I am advised that the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (HHS) has been temporarily offering assistance by providing medical doctors to service the private and public health requirements of the Herberton, Ravenshoe and Mount Garnet communities. This has been achieved under existing Medical Superintendents with Rights of Private Practice (MSRPP) contract arrangements between the Cairns and Hinterland HHS and the General Practitioner (GP) in Ravenshoe, while the GP was unable to work due to ill health and following his sad passing.

I am further advised that recruitment for a GP (MSRPP) has commenced and the Cairns and Hinterland HHS continues to actively work with the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and other stakeholders to assist with the provision of primary care services for the region and to provide continuity of care to Herberton Hospital and the Cairns and Hinterland Primary Care Clinics in Herberton, Ravenshoe and Mt Garnet.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

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

STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services