



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Health and  
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- 5 MAR 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3275-20 tabled in Parliament on 4 February 2020 in relation to Gladstone Hospital upgrades.

I acknowledge the passion of the Gladstone community in petitioning for greater capital investment at the Gladstone Hospital and I understand the desire to have more medical services delivered closer to home, reducing the need to travel for care.

Since January 2015, there has been significant investment and improvement at Gladstone Hospital. The number of tenured doctors has increased by almost 200 per cent, supporting a significant growth in staffing across the facility. The Queensland Government's capital funding at Gladstone Hospital is unprecedented and the volume of care delivered to the Gladstone community has rapidly increased to meet the growing demand.

Planning for future healthcare delivery is an important body of work for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board and goes through a number of phases to ensure the people of Gladstone and the wider Central Queensland region receive the right health care into the future.

Through its strategic asset planning processes, the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service has identified the need for a staged approach to future investment at Gladstone Hospital, to augment the \$42 million investment in the new Emergency Department which is currently under construction.

This strategic planning has identified a need for expanded and upgraded theatres, more hospital beds, and mental health inpatient services, as requested in the petition. In addition, planning is progressing on improvements to bring the Gladstone Hospital to a Clinical Services Capability Framework Level Four service as soon as it is safe and sustainable to do so. These priorities will be considered through existing planning and funding processes.

The Government is committed to providing the best care possible to the people of Gladstone, and carefully planning further investments will ensure additional services are both safe and sustainable.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**