



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services

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12 AUG 2020

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 petitions 3330-20 and 3373-20, tabled in Parliament on 14 July 2020, in relation to the provision of a full-time paediatric cardiologist in North Queensland. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The Palaszczuk Government is absolutely committed to giving all Queensland children a great start in life and to making Townsville University Hospital a better place for our smallest patients.

The Townsville University Hospital provides tertiary level paediatric services for children across North Queensland. While most children in North Queensland receive the care they need in North Queensland, there are some children with complex care requirements that need to travel to the Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane.

To support the delivery of local care in North Queensland, there is a longstanding partnership between the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) and Children's Health Queensland which provides a three-day outreach clinic in Townsville, four times per year. All children requiring subspecialist paediatric cardiology care in Townsville are currently seen within clinically recommended timeframes.

The Palaszczuk Government was very proud to open the Townsville University Hospital's new \$8 million children's ward which increased the number of beds from 23 to 30, almost doubled the floor space and provided a much more family and child friendly environment.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

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