



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie ^{Neil}

I write in response to your letter regarding petitions 3549-21 and 3600-21, tabled in Parliament on 31 August 2021, in relation to Gympie Paediatric Services. 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 Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is committed to paediatric services for Gympie Hospital. The SCHHS is expanding the scope and types of paediatric patients to be managed as inpatients at Gympie Hospital. Plans are in place to increase the medical coverage to enable 24/7 care and admission into the paediatric ward. It is anticipated this will commence towards the end of October 2021, subject to the recruitment of appropriately qualified staff.

In reference to the acute admissions of children, Senior Medical Officers of the Department of Emergency Medicine determine whether a transfer to Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) or Children's Health Queensland is required. This is currently considered the safest model of care by the Senior Medical Officers at Gympie Hospital. Children requiring tertiary level care will therefore continue to be transferred to the most appropriate facility.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

YVETTE D'ATH MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
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