



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

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14 April 2022

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

14 APR 2022

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to petition numbers 3657-21 and 3715-22, tabled in Parliament on 15 March 2022 and 16 March 2022 respectively, in relation to a request for a persistent/chronic pain clinic within the South Burnett region. 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.

As a regional health service in relatively close proximity to Brisbane, there are a range of highly specialised services Darling Downs Health does not offer that are publicly available at larger facilities. Pain management services are not currently provided by Darling Downs Health; however, consumers from the Darling Downs region may be referred by their General Practitioner (GP) to the Gold Coast Interdisciplinary Persistent Pain Management Service at Robina Hospital or Professor Tess Cramond Multidisciplinary Pain Centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Queensland Health has a focus on improving access to high quality, cost effective care for Queenslanders and reducing the economic and life burden that is associated with this condition. To demonstrate Queensland Health's commitment to pain services the Statewide Persistent Pain Management Clinical Network was developed, with a continued focus on improving patient access to evidence based multidisciplinary care

Further, I can advise Darling Downs Health is currently reviewing options which may be available to provide some pain management services from Toowoomba Hospital for consumers within the Darling Downs region. Many factors must be considered when commencing a new service, of which an appropriately trained, skilled and sustainable workforce is one. Darling Downs Health would need to ensure any service established in Toowoomba could provide consistent and safe care to our consumers.

I can appreciate the effect pain has on the quality of life for many community members within Darling Downs and I can assure the petitioners we are continuing to review services which are in the best interest of the community.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

YVETTE D'ATH MP
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