



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

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29 SEP 2022

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I write in response to petition numbers 3754-22 and 3804-22, tabled in Parliament on 30 August 2022.

Gympie Hospital continues to provide a 24 hour per day, 7 day per week service and patient care for the Gympie community is the priority of the Gympie Hospital and the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. As a Clinical Services Capability Framework (CSCF) Level 3 facility, Gympie Hospital has the admitting capacity to accommodate clinically appropriate short and longer-term admissions.

There has not been a "systemic reduction of services" at the Gympie Hospital. Further, the expression "attempted closure" in relation to the paediatric ward is inaccurate.

The nature and volume of clinical services delivered by the Gympie Hospital to the local community has been maintained over the past 5 years, with demonstrated year-on-year growth of hospital admissions and consistent delivery of outpatient services to Gympie residents.

I am advised by the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service that there have been intermittent disruptions to some services due to local workforce challenges, which impacted Paediatric After-Hours Care, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Services and the Fracture Clinic. Residents affected by these service disruptions were temporarily required to access services at other Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service facilities, however, all services have resumed as of the date of this response.

I am further advised that the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service continues to invest in services for the Gympie community, with expansion of Gympie Hospital services including:

- increased Social Workers availability for admitted patients in early 2021
- opening an additional four short stay beds in the Emergency Department in October 2021
- resumption of a 24-hour, 7-day service for paediatric inpatients from October 2021
- commencement of an Adult Frailty Clinical Nurse Consultant and a Community Hospital Interface Program Nurse in 2021
- expansion of mental health clinical coverage within the Emergency Department with increased service hours from November 2021 and enhanced medical officer presence commencing August 2022.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service remains committed to providing access to health services for all residents, both within the Gympie region and the broader Sunshine Coast.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette D'ATH', written in a cursive style.

YVETTE D'ATH MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
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