

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services Minister for Women

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## 1 1 OCT 2023

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3926-23, tabled in Parliament on 12 September 2023, in relation to CT scanner at Ayr Hospital.

I understand that each rural community and its population needs are unique. Each requires a tailored model in order to provide appropriate health care services to reduce the need for residents to travel for health care.

I am advised that whilst there is no publicly owned CT scanner in the Ayr community area, the community does maintain access to a local imaging service, including the provision of CT imagery, through the local private provider, Ayr Diagnostic Imagining (ADI).

Our Government is absolutely committed to ensuring that Queenslanders can access the health services they need, when they need them, within their communities. We understand that health emergencies often happen outside of business hours, which is why it is so important that a CT scanner is available to Ayr locals through Queensland Health, 24 hours per day.

To that end, I am pleased to inform that the Townsville Hospital and Health Service is progressing this matter in consultation with the Department of Health by preparing a Business Case submission. This will identify the service need and costs of establishing and operating a CT scanner at Ayr Hospital. Once completed by the Townsville HHS this will be provided to the Department of Health for consideration.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Shannon Fentiman MP Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services Minister for Women Member for Waterford