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Mr N Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2005 enclosing Petition Number 423-05 regarding the use of the hydrotherapy pool at the James Cook University Campus at Vincent in Townsville.

I am advised by the District Manager, Townsville Health Service District that financial support has been provided by the Health Service for some years to assist the Lions Club maintain the pool which is used by several organisations within the Townsville/Thuringowa community.

The hydrotherapy pool is located in the grounds of the University Campus at Vincent. The University agreed to allow the community use of the pool whilst they were the owners of the property. Our understanding is that the new owners of the facility will not be taking possession of the facility for some time and therefore the current arrangements will remain in place.

I have been advised that the Townsville City Council is looking at various options for a hydrotherapy pool, to meet the needs of the community, and one option being considered is the construction of a new pool at a venue to be determined.

It is appreciated that the pool provides therapeutic relief to members of the community and this has been acknowledged by the City Council's interest in providing an alternative arrangement. I would suggest that regular contact be maintained with the District Manager, Townsville Health Service District in relation to the Health Service's liaison with the City Council.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Mr Ken Whelan, District Manager, Townsville Health Service District, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone number 4796 1035.

Yours sincerely

**GORDON NUTTALL MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Member for Sandgate**