

MI127841

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 20 April 2005, regarding Petition No. 459-05 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

In 2004, the Queensland Government commissioned an independent reviewer Dr Cherrell Hirst AO to examine birthing and maternity services in Queensland and make recommendations to the Government to improve and enhance maternity services for the Queensland community.

Throughout the Review, broad consultation was undertaken with consumers, medical, midwifery and nursing professionals, representatives from professional associations, educational and training institutions and colleges, relevant unions and those working within the private and public sectors. The Review also called for submissions from the public, which was widely advertised in the print media, and more than 440 submissions were received by the Review as result. An Issues Paper highlighting the issues raised during consultations was released in January 2005.

The Final Report of the Review of Maternity Services has just been released. Dr Hirst has made recommendations and raised a number of issues in relation to maternity services. The Government is committed to maternity services reform and I intend to take forward an Implementation Plan to Cabinet in September this year for due consideration by the Government.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Ms Sandra Eyre, Principal Policy Officer, Strategic Policy Branch, Queensland Health, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone (07) 3235 4186.

Yours sincerely

GORDON NUTTALL MP
Minister for Health
Member for Sandgate

Prepared by: Sandra Eyre
Principal Policy Officer
Strategic Policy Branch
323 54186
24/05/05

Submitted through: Madonna Cuthbert
Executive Director
Strategic Policy Branch
322 52456
/ /05

Cleared by: Anne Turner
S/Executive Director
Strategic Policy and Government Liaison
32340883
/ /05