



**Hon Stephen Robertson MP**  
Member for Stretton



**Queensland  
Government**

Reference: H/06/06796 & H/06/06797

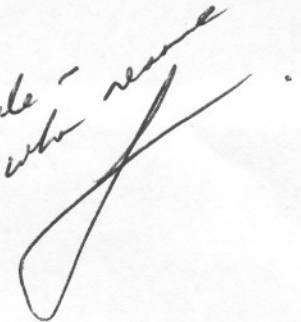
23 AUG 2006

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



Minister for Health

*Bible - receive*



Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters dated 9 August 2006, regarding Petitions No's 665-05 and 700-06, ie access to Bibles during a stay in Queensland hospitals.

Regarding the provision of Bibles in Queensland hospitals, let me assure you that there has been no change in policy regarding Bibles in hospitals. Media reports on this issue have been highly inaccurate and despite the best efforts of Queensland Health to correct the record publicly, misinformation on this issue continues to be promoted and publicised.

Let me assure you once again, that Bibles are available, and have always been available, in Queensland hospitals.

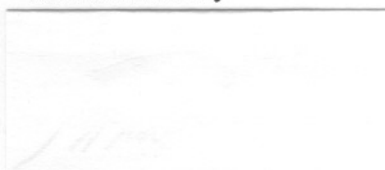
In some hospitals they are kept in bedside cabinets or on nearby shelving, while in others they are supplied on request from staff or chaplains.

Chaplains state that a benefit of supplying Bibles on request is that patients can choose from the New King James Version New Testament, supplied by Gideons International; the complete Good News Bible, supplied by the Bible Society; or other Bibles.

A secondary benefit is that Bibles are delivered by Chaplains who are then able to spend time with patients, and find out if they have any other spiritual or emotional needs.

Decisions surrounding Bible placement are not influenced by political, multicultural considerations or matters of infection control. Bibles placed in bedside cabinets or drawers are generally cleaned between patients. In hospitals where Chaplains distribute Bibles on request, the Chaplains ensure the Bibles are cleaned between patients.

Yours sincerely



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