



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

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19 SEP 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 3882-23, tabled in Parliament on 22 August 2023, in relation to improving Renal and Urology services in Hervey Bay.

Demand for health services continues to grow across Queensland, including in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (WBHHS).

Like health systems across the world, Queensland is experiencing a range of pressures including increased demand and the effects of a global workforce shortage. But despite these pressures, our amazing health workers continue to deliver quality healthcare to Queenslanders.

In the June 2023 quarter, WBHHS delivered more than 6,000 specialist outpatient appointments, and more than 1,000 elective surgeries. While this progress is promising, we know there is more to do.

WBHHS recently completed a Local Area Needs Assessment and Health Service Plan, which has served as a detailed evaluation of local health needs, based on data analysis and consultation with local stakeholders, clinicians, and consumers.

The Assessment provides a roadmap to prioritise the immediate and future needs of the growing local population, including urology and renal services.

In addition, WBHHS currently has an arrangement with Mater Hospital Brisbane to provide comprehensive urological services that support the whole Wide Bay community. This arrangement includes Mater urologists providing face to face outpatient clinics in Hervey Bay so patients in the Wide Bay can access care closer to home.

WBHHS are committed to further supporting and improving Renal and Urology services for all their communities, including Hervey Bay in accordance with local need and health service planning. 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