



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

- 8 DEC 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write to provide a final response to your letter regarding petitions 3360-20 and 3414-20, tabled in Parliament on 8 September 2020, in relation to the South Burnett Specialist Cancer Nurse. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service is committed to providing quality healthcare to its region.

I am advised that a review of the service model for Nurse Navigation was completed in 2019 to ensure the services provided by the various Nurse Navigator roles were aligned to the needs of the communities across the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service region. The review, which included consultation with all affected staff, resulted in a change to the Nurse Navigator roles to include several generalist positions in order to better serve the community by providing support across multiple specialities rather than being focussed on one area such as cancer care. The review concluded that while a role dedicated to cancer care patients in the South Burnett was beneficial to the patients assisted by this role, a different service model could provide valuable care and support to a broader range of patients.

The generalist Nurse Navigators will assist patients in the South Burnett community who have a diagnosis of cancer to navigate the health system and assist with connection to all other health providers involved in that patient's care.

In addition to the generalist Nurse Navigator roles, a Nurse Navigator Cancer Care and Chronic Disease position with responsibility for the whole Darling Downs Region has been recruited to further assist patients. This role will be based in Toowoomba and the Nurse Navigator will travel on a regular basis to assist patients within the South Burnett region.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette D'Ath".

YVETTE D'ATH MP
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