



2 June 2005

Mr Anthony Morris QC  
Commissioner  
Bundaberg Hospital Commission of Inquiry  
PO Box 13147  
**GEORGE STREET QLD 4003**

Dear Tony

In light of recent media coverage I would like to bring to your attention details of a meeting with union officials held at the Bundaberg Hospital on 12 September, 2000.

Enclosed are copies of documents relating to that meeting, including a personal file that was kept by a member of my staff, Mr Richard Cleal, and my previous media statements in relation to the matter.

I also note that the information has already been provided to the Forster Health System Review as the meeting concerned administrative and industrial issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify two matters. Firstly, the article by Mr John Black on page 15 of today's *Courier Mail* newspaper adds the word "*(investigation)*" to the reference to the meeting minutes supplied by the unions, "We have concerns that Queensland Health could unwittingly show the government in a poor light, which could trigger the downfall of the current government."

The addition of the extra word may imply a meaning to the statement that was not originally intended.

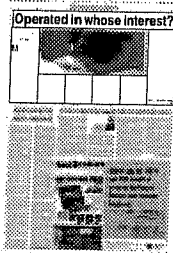
There has also been some discussion about the date of the meeting. My diary and

Mr Cleal's notes clearly show the meeting was on 12 September, 2000 not 5 September, 2000 as outlined in the union minutes. I have also indicated in my media statements that there are other inaccuracies in the minutes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Beattie', with a stylized, cursive script.

**PETER BEATTIE MP**  
**PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**



# Operated in whose interest?

A meeting in late 2000 had significant implications for Bundaberg, according to

**John Black**

**M**OVES to restructure the administration of Bundaberg Health Service District — headed by district manager Peter Leck, who subsequently employed Dr Jayant Patel — were blocked in late 2000.

Unions covering workers employed at the Bundaberg Base Hospital successfully sought a meeting with Premier Peter Beattie, to complain about a Health Department investigation into the administration of the Bundaberg Health District.

The Premier has admitted meeting the union officials in September 2000 but said leaked minutes of the meeting were "not accurate", although former senior Health Department officials have confirmed to me the unions resisted reform of Bundaberg Hospital, as outlined in the leaked document.

Former Health Department officials confirmed yesterday that they were advised to "back off" moves to pay out Leck's contract and reform inefficient work practices in Bundaberg Hospital in both August and October 2000.

Former officials confirmed Leck had been sent on "gardening leave" for at least two months, from mid-2000, to enable them to investigate reports of underperformance by both Leck and an Indian-trained obstetrician who had been showing some reluctance to attend births. The obstetrician was reviewed by a Royal Brisbane Hospital specialist and sent for a month's retraining to the Royal Women's Hospital for "an improvement in his procedural skills" and returned to Bundaberg.

The Australian Services Union, the Australian Workers Union, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, the Queensland Public Sector Union and the Queensland Nurses Union represented all ALP factions at the September meeting and the written notes, dated October 6, 2000, state: "We have concerns that Queensland Health (investigation) could unwittingly show the Government in a poor light, which could trigger the downfall of the current Government."

At the time, the Beattie Government had a majority of only one, and Bundaberg was one of its most marginal seats, won by former Bundaberg mayor Nita Cunningham in 1998.

According to the notes, union proposals for a suggested judicial inquiry into the Health Department's Bundaberg Hospital reforms were rejected by Beattie, who instead appointed one of his close personal advisers, Richard Cleal, an AWU faction representative in the Premier's office, to conduct an internal Premier's office inquiry into the Queensland Health investigation.

The Premier indicated this week, however, that this was not correct and Cleal simply prepared "a summary" of the September meeting, and conceded that Cleal followed up on the issues raised at the meeting through "a series of discussions with officials in the Health Department, the Health Minister's office and a representative of the Bundaberg Hospital unions".

The relevant file had been passed on to the Forster review of Queensland Health systems, rather than the Morris health inquiry, by the Premier, as it was "not linked to clinical activity".

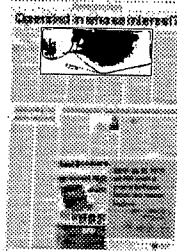
Any further investigation into administrative or clinical problems at Bundaberg were shelved by Health Department investigators in October 2000, and no action was taken after the February 2001 election, other than a renewal of Leck's contract.

During the investigation into the administration of Leck, senior health bureaucrats found the hospital had significant wastage of scarce health funds on poor rostering practices and administrative inefficiencies, such as alleged exchanges by senior administrators of conference leave for annual leave.

Complaints were made in the minutes that Queensland Health's HR Department was "a disgrace. It is a managerial tool". The union minutes clearly state the 2000 local investigation into administrative problems at Bundaberg Hospital ought to be blocked in the political interests of the Beattie Government.

Dr Rob Stable was personally headhunted as director-general from the private health sector by Beattie when he first was appointed health minister by premier Wayne Goss, after the 1995 election, when Beattie conducted his well-known 100 days of listening tour, through Queensland rural hospitals.

Stable was re-appointed by Beattie in 2001 when his handpicked health minister Wendy Edmond was in charge.



→

Stable retired from Queensland Health in late 2003, to become the vice-chancellor at Bond University, and, at the time, Beattie said: "Working under the policies set by the Labor Government and the direction of Ms Edmond, Dr Stable has been responsible for providing Queenslanders with the best health system in the country."

Edmond also congratulated Stable, saying: "We have enjoyed an excellent working relationship. By any measure, he is leaving Queensland Health in very good shape."

At the time of these remarks by the Premier and former health minister, in August 2003, Jayant Patel already had been hired by the Bundaberg Health Service which had been left intact following the September unions meeting with the Premier.

Complaints about Patel already had

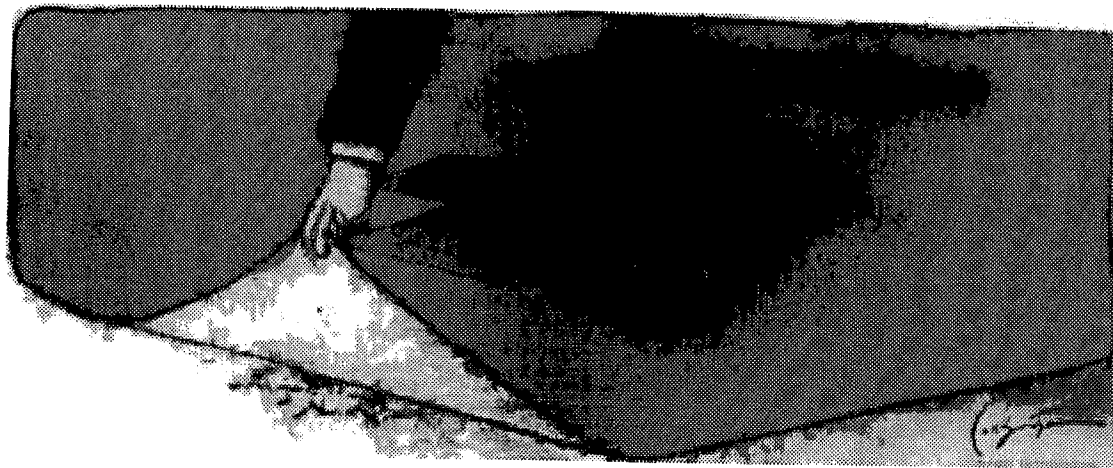
been lodged by Bundaberg ICU nurse Toni Hoffman in June 2003, to Bundaberg Hospital medical services director Dr Darren Keating.

Leck, now on leave again for this second inquiry into his administration, conceded to the Morris inquiry last week that he did not object to efforts in January 2005, by Keating, to re-employ Patel, despite receiving Hoffman's written complaints in October 2004.

Leck told the inquiry he could not remember signing the authorisation for \$3547 for Patel's one-way flight out of Australia on April Fools Day, 2005.

The Premier said this week that these subsequent events had not been linked in any way to his actions of September 2000.

**John Black is a former Labor senator who headed a parliamentary inquiry into drugs in sport which reported in May 1990**



## **Minister blames Health bullies.**

*By Hedley Thomas*

HEALTH Minister Gordon Nuttall accepts the state's health system is racked by a culture of intimidation and secrecy.

And the besieged minister concedes he has been trying for 12 months to fix the problem.

Bundaberg Hospital nurses have alleged bullying and intimidation by management delayed the exposure of Dr Jayant Patel's dangerous surgery.

Forensics scientists at Brisbane's John Tonge Centre were also threatened and warned not to speak out about testing problems - a situation described by Mr Nuttall as "appalling".

Mr Nuttall yesterday conceded that perceptions about secrecy had been part of the Health Department's image "for a long, long time".

But he said it was a culture that could not be changed overnight.

Mr Nuttall said he feared that now the truth about Dr Patel was known, the trail of deaths and injuries so far linked to the Indian-trained surgeon would be confirmed by investigations.

"This business about bullying and intimidation and people not coming forward with their concerns, we have to change it," Mr Nuttall said.

He insisted he had **not been** attempting a "cover-up" when he visited Bundaberg and told staff there would **not be an inquiry**. That visit had been only days before the Dr Death scandal erupted with the **discovery** of Dr Patel's gross negligence in the US.

The Dr Death inquiry **took an unexpected turn** yesterday when commissioner Tony Morris, QC, **sidelined deputy Llew Edwards** from involvement in any hearings or evidence relating to the **Medical Board**.

All major stakeholders **had raised concerns** over Sir Llew's directorship of a public relations company **handling the media** for the Medical Board over the Dr Death fallout.

Mr Morris stressed he **had no doubts** over Sir Llew's integrity or impartiality, but Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg and Liberal leader Bob Quinn called for Sir Llew to be **completely removed**.

Premier Peter Beattie countered that Mr Morris and he were of the same view that "there is **no possible conflict**". He said Mr Morris had acted to remove any perceptions of a conflict of interest.

Mr Beattie's own knowledge of a management crisis at Bundaberg Hospital before the Patel issues was raised yesterday in a leaked union document. It states the Premier was confidentially warned in September 2000: "You are on notice that you could end up with another (royal commission)."

The document, comprising minutes from a closed-door meeting of unions and Mr Beattie, states: "We have concerns that Queensland Health could unwittingly show the government in a poor light, which could trigger the downfall of the current government.

"We need a full independent inquiry (not Qld Health) to look at the facts and talk to the staff."

Mr Beattie was told of a lack of consultation between Queensland Health management and staff, the "destroying of culture at a local level", the "breaking down of career paths" and denial of natural justice to three clinical directors.

Mr Beattie confirmed yesterday that he had met union officials on September 12, 2000, but said the minutes leaked to The Courier-Mail were "not accurate".

"We followed up on the issues raised at the time," he said.

The meeting was held 2 1/2 years before Dr Patel was hired. His two-year reign as Bundaberg hospital director of surgery went unchecked despite serious complaints from nurses and doctors.

### **Flegg revisits old story**

Premier Peter Beattie says issues raised with him at a meeting with unions at the Bundaberg Hospital on 12 September 2000 were on administrative and industrial matters.

The issues raised were not about medical practice at the hospital and centred on regional and local administration.

"At no time were issues of individual patient's clinical treatment raised with me."

Mr Richard Cleal, of my office, who was present at the meeting, followed up on issues raised at the meeting through a series of discussions with the Health Department, Health Minister's Office and a representative of the Bundaberg Hospital unions.

Issues raised included employment of specialists and an individual medico's continued employment, however that was not linked to clinical activity rather some attendees believed the doctor was being treated unfairly by management.

At a later time (November 2000) Mr Cleal spoke with a union representative from the meeting outlining the process concerning the medico's continued employment and how the matter was being dealt with by the Medical Board.

That is why all that I have on this matter has been forwarded to Mr Forster and his inquiry. Mr Flegg deliberately confuses administration issues with clinical practice matters that are under review by Tony Morris QC.

**Mr Beattie said he however had no problems with Mr Flegg following up a month old *The Courier Mail* story by Hedley Thomas.**

31 May 2005

Media contact: Premier's office 3224 4500

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31 May 2005

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### **STATEMENT BY PREMIER PETER BEATTIE**

The Courier-Mail on 30 April 2005 carried a front page story in relation to an inaccurate set of union minutes allegedly covering my meeting with union officials at the Bundaberg Base Hospital on 12 September 2000.

As this matter was raised during my press conference this morning, I have checked the facts and this is the sequence of events:

- This issue was first raised by The Courier-Mail on 29 April - it was not raised in Parliament.
- I provided The Courier-Mail with a one page statement responding to their initial questions. (statement attached)
- I supplied a copy of my statement and the complete file on the meeting with the union officials to Mr Peter Forster, for his inquiry.
- Two follow-up questions were sent to my office by email and one of my staff answered those questions by telephone.\*

If anyone in the media wishes to look through the file, I will make it available to them.

We have nothing to hide.

I ask Dr Flegg to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Had he researched the inaccurate set of union minutes before releasing them to the media, he would have learned that they were inaccurate.

\*The additional questions and my answers were:

The minutes, apart from the discrepancies you've addressed in the statement, are they accurate? No.

Could a lack of action at the time over alleged mismanagement, intimidation etc be linked to the alleged failure of management two and a half years later, when Dr Patel arrived, to properly respond to staff concerns about Dr Patel? No, there is no link.

Media contact: 3224 4500

May 31, 2005

### **Meeting with union representatives at Bundaberg Base Hospital**

Accompanied by policy adviser Richard Cleal and media adviser Steve Bishop, I met with union officials at Bundaberg Base Hospital on 12 September 2000.

(The union minutes incorrectly say the meeting was 5 September)

Richard took notes during the meeting and it was his responsibility to follow up the issues raised.

The day after the meeting, Richard prepared a summary of what was discussed at the meeting.

His notes differ from the Unions' minutes in that the unions interpreted that Richard was going to do a written report, which was never the case.

Richard followed up on the issues raised at the meeting through a series of discussions with officials in the Health Department, the Health Minister's office and a representative of the Bundaberg Hospital unions.

I am today forwarding the union minutes and Richard Cleal's file on the meeting to Mr Peter Forster for consideration in his Review of Queensland Health Systems.

PETER BEATTIE MP  
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE

29 April 2005



**Queensland  
Government**

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

**FACSIMILE**

TO: **Members of the Gallery**

FROM: Premier's Office - Steve KEATING  
TELEPHONE: 07 3224 4500 or 0408 720 081

FAX:

DATE: 31 May 2005

PAGES Inc this – Four

SUBJECT: The Premier's visit to Bundaberg on Tuesday 12 September 2000  
was as you can see not just to see unions.

Attached is the program from a busy (7.10am – 11pm) day.



**Steve Keating**  
Deputy Director  
Government Media Unit

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**THE HON PETER BEATTIE MLA**  
**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**

**TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2000**

- 7.10am Premier to depart home for the Airwing.
- 7.25am (Passengers: Hon Henry Palasczuck, Kirby Anderson, Paul Martin, Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal, Lindsay Pyne, Health Department arrive at the airwing.) The Minister & party are up only. They travel back commercial.
- 7.45am The Kingair departs Brisbane.  
Flying time is 55 minutes.
- 8.40am Premier has a live media interview with the morning crew from B105 regarding Roma Street parklands.  
In att: Steve Bishop.
- 8.45am Premier has a media interview with Alan Jones, Radio 2UE regarding the Courier Mail article on the CJC referral.  
In att: Steve Bishop.
- 8.45am The Kingair lands in Bundaberg. Nita Cunningham MLA has arranged transport. NB. Mrs Cunningham's mobile phone no. 041 ~~222 222~~
- 9am Premier to present 2 Premier's Millenium Medals.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Richard Cleal, Steve Bishop.  
VENUE: KEPNOCK GROVE RETIRMENT VILLAGE,  
JOCUMSEN STREET, BUNDABERG. PHONE NO.  
41 ~~222 222~~.
- 10am *(Mrs Beattie to have morning tea with Julie Attwood MLA & residents at Sinnamon Village, 620 Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, Seventeen Mile Rocks.)*

- 10.15am Premier to attend a community morning tea.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal.  
VENUE: RSL CLUB, QUAY STREET, BUNDABERG.  
PHONE NO. 41513809.
- 11am Premier to present 3 Bravery Awards on behalf of the QLD Fire & Rescue Service, the State Young Hero of the Year to Kaleb Robson, the Ambulance Officer of the Year to Gary Cotterill for Childers work, Student Officer of the Year to Rod Bourke from Kingaroy Station & Local Ambulance Committee Achiever of the Year to Mrs Margaret Wilkinson of Bundaberg.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal.  
**Reminder to refer to the brief regarding young Kaleb Robson, who is still traumatised by the event, particularly in relation to media.**  
VENUE: BUNDABERG AMBULANCE STATION, BOURBONG STREET, BUNDABERG. PHONE NO. 41537420 OR OIC PAT DENHAM ON MOBILE PHONE NO. 04 [REDACTED].
- 11.30am Premier to visit the Bundaberg Base Hospital for a tour and various meetings.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal.  
VENUE: BOURBONG STREET, BUNDABERG. PHONE NO. 41521222.
- 12n Premier to hold a media conference.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal, Lindsay Pyne, Health Zone Manager, Peter Leck, District Manager.  
VENUE: FOYER ENTRANCE.
- 12.30pm Premier & Mrs Cunningham meet with union delegates.
- 12.45pm Sandwich lunch with the District Health Council members, hospital executive, senior staff.
- 1.15pm Lunch concludes
- 1.30pm Premier & Mrs Cunningham depart.

- 2pm Premier to handover the sugar terminal & launch QLD Sugar.  
In att: the Hon Henry Palaszczuk, Nita Cunningham MLA,  
Bruce Vaughan, Queensland Sugar Chairman, Ian White,  
Queensland Sugar Chief Executive Officer.  
VENUE: BUNDABERG BULK SUGAR TERMINAL, PORT  
ROAD, BUNDABERG. PHONE NO. 41594144 OR  
CONTACT: JAN GEORGE MOBILE PHONE NO.  
041 [REDACTED]
- 2pm (NB. CJC handover the Report on QLD Prison Industries.)
- 3.30pm Premier to turn the sod on the legacy units & have afternoon tea  
at the hall next door.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Richard Cleal, Steve Bishop.  
VENUE: BAROLIN STREET, BUNDABERG.
- 4.30pm Premier to retire to the Burnett Riverside Motel to refresh etc.  
In att: Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal.  
VENUE: BURNETT RIVERSIDE MOTEL, 7 QUAY  
STREET, BUNDABERG. PHONE NO. 41558777
- 6.50pm Mr Elvin Cunningham to pick up the Premier & party.
- 7pm Premier is special guest speaker at a dinner function.  
In att: Nita Cunningham MLA, Steve Bishop, Richard Cleal.  
(see separate list.)  
VENUE: SHAMROCK ROOM, BROTHERS CLUB,  
TAKALVAN STREET, BUNDABERG. CONTACT: NITA  
CUNNINGHAM MOBILE PHONE NO. 042 [REDACTED]
- 9.45pm Premier & party depart for the airport. Transport arranged by  
Mrs Cunningham.
- 10pm (Approx.) Kingair departs Bundaberg for Brisbane.
- 11pm (Approx.) Kingair lands at the airwing.



PREMIER'S NOTE

Successor  
3134  
0825

Rebutal  
Re Sunday trip

- (1) Useful to brief  
Edmond office on  
hospital outcomes
- (2) Maybe worthwhile  
checking Milta Dil  
for Juri / feedback on  
day

13/9

## **BUNDABERG HOSPITAL – MEETING WITH UNIONS – 12 SEPTEMBER 2000**

**Present; Premier, Nita Cunningham, Richard Cleal, Steve Bishop  
Matt Varghese W.4150 2531/H4151 3293, Christine, Keith Ballin AWU**

### General Issues raised:

Poor leadership at Corporate, District and Local level

3 Directors have recently left – Combination of suspension/?resignation and Study Leave

Mental Health unit has potential to become a major problem – Ward 10 B

\*Lack of Consultation – Need better Participation and Communication

\*When senior staff go on leave – Replacements come from Outside rather than promoting internally (Director of Nursing)

HRM not working effectively

Zones is just another way of regionalisation – Record Budgets – Service dissatisfaction/poor worker moral

Those that are involved in Union activities are harassed

Workplace bullying

Asked for full independent inquiry

### Specific Issues

Asked to do up submission on extra administrative support – Asked for 7 ½ hours at Childers 10 hours at Gin Gin – Knocked back complete waste of time



Health Organization

Group

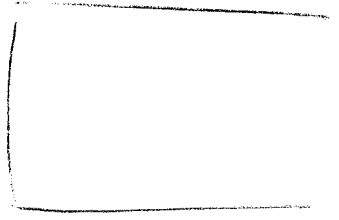
Answer

De Force.

Group Rules.

① Leadership

Corporate  
District  
Local



② Local

- Improper Power
- 3 Divisions - Suspended
- 
- Study Local.

③ De. = Mental Health Unit { Local CB }

④ Unit of Control. - CB Arrangement with Health

⑤ Senior Staff or Local - Replacement Order  
- Team Staff up

⑥ HRH - Degree

⑦ QIC Health - Temporary  
- Personnel

2007/8

① Zones rather than regionalisation.

Squads.

- Reflect on Government -

- People want Services

- Re word Budget - Sense Deficit.  
- Poor worker Moral

→ Full Independent Equity

→ Howard When Heber

workload issues

Charles

~~Start of job~~

→ A Lennestake Sept-1

7 1/2 children

10 yrs for

→ work of finding

waste time /

no conf. done

- Management

→ 1 Person Staff Building / cut off

→ Front Quarter

A Lennestake.

Susan More 002 - Management { 006 head manages job }

Amoy  
Harass / Threatened / Bullied, - Dispute notes  
- genuine promises

workplace Bullying

Says no of people / How the an.

Participate / communicate

!!

Subsequent

!! DCF are working closely  
Management take over.

Casey Pollis Being down.

!! Ruled Outside District

!! NO can act up

DIRECTOR of MERCURY  
POSITIONS NOT FULFILLED

Under Contract

Management - will not consult

4 Specialists - 4 weeks

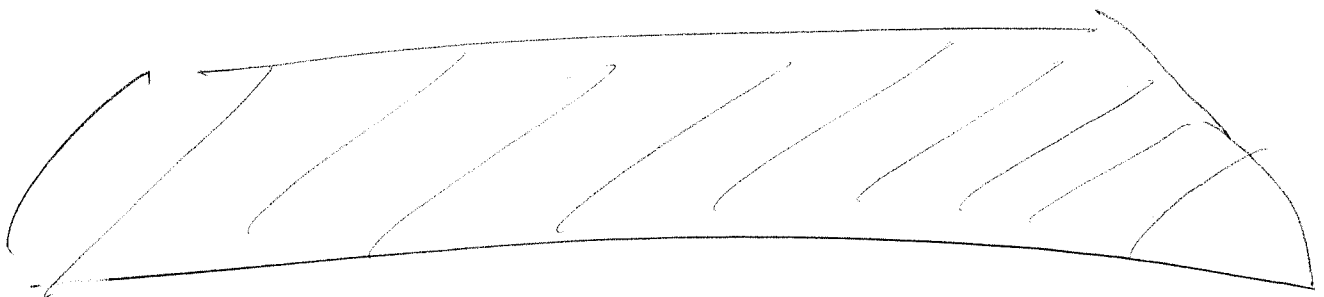
Doctor - Suspended without pay

Wall Varghese.

McClanahan - Counsel for

Follow up

↓  
Detail



Stats are True

Specialists

→ Keith Baker →

ACU Security

→ Paul Varghese →

④ 41502531  
④ 41513293

→ William Byrne - Loran

→ Peter Walsh - Robert

Margaret

→ Buddy Charles Jim  
→ Mr. Ray →



## **STATE GOVT: \$1M EXTRA SERVICES FOR BUNDABERG HOSPITAL**

Additional services worth more than \$1 million at Bundaberg Base Hospital were announced today by Premier Peter Beattie and Health Minister Wendy Edmond.

Mr Beattie said that the Government had strongly supported representations by Mrs Cunningham seeking expansion of the hospital's renal services and additional staff for paediatrics.

"Following extensive consideration of the situation at Bundaberg, we have agreed that it is necessary to address the needs identified by Nita Cunningham," Mr Beattie said.

"Bundaberg has been experiencing some special circumstances in relation to increasing demand for renal medicine and we are responding to those circumstances," Mr Beattie said.

"Nita Cunningham has kept us well aware of the needs at Bundaberg Hospital and has been working with the Health Minister to ensure that we get the best possible results for Bundaberg."

Ms Edmond said the package comprised:

### Renal medicine

- A \$300,000 expansion of the renal dialysis unit with an increase to eight chairs and the capacity for future growth;
- Specialist medicine services and extra renal nursing services to be provided as visiting services through the Central Zone network.

### Paediatrics

- A new full-time paediatrician;
- Two new paediatric community-allied health positions.

### Critical care

- A new full time anaesthetist/intensivist;
- Critical care nursing education and training support.

### Specialist services visiting sessions

- General medicine and internal medicine;
- General surgery;
- Orthopaedic surgery; and,
- Additional Oncology sessions.

Ms Edmond said the changes would mean that many Bundaberg patients who would have previously been sent to specialists in Brisbane would now be able to see them in their local community.

"We are bringing these specialists to Bundaberg so that local residents will have much easier access to the health care they need," Ms Edmond said.

Mrs Cunningham said: "I'm very pleased with all of these additional services, which respond to the emerging health needs of the people of Bundaberg, including increased demand for renal services, extra paediatric services and medical and surgical services.

"These enhancements will help the hospital continue to deliver quality health services to local people."

Mrs Cunningham said that these improvements at Bundaberg Hospital were in addition to a wide range of achievements in the past two years, including:

- completion of the \$27.25 million hospital redevelopment project;
- the purchase of a \$630,000 state-of-the-art CT scanner;
- commissioning of a new mental health unit;
- additional emergency department nurses;
- a 96 percent increase in palliative care funding;
- an expanded child health centre;
- introduction of the Positive Parenting Program; and,
- school nurses at Bundaberg, Bundaberg North and Rosedale State High Schools.

"We have had many worthwhile achievements at Bundaberg Hospital and this package is another important advancement," Mrs Cunningham said.

The total value of the enhancement package for the remainder of this year is \$1.045 million, which includes the one-off capital works funds of \$300,000.

The extra services will be maintained through additional recurrent funding of \$970,000 to the Bundaberg Health Service District.

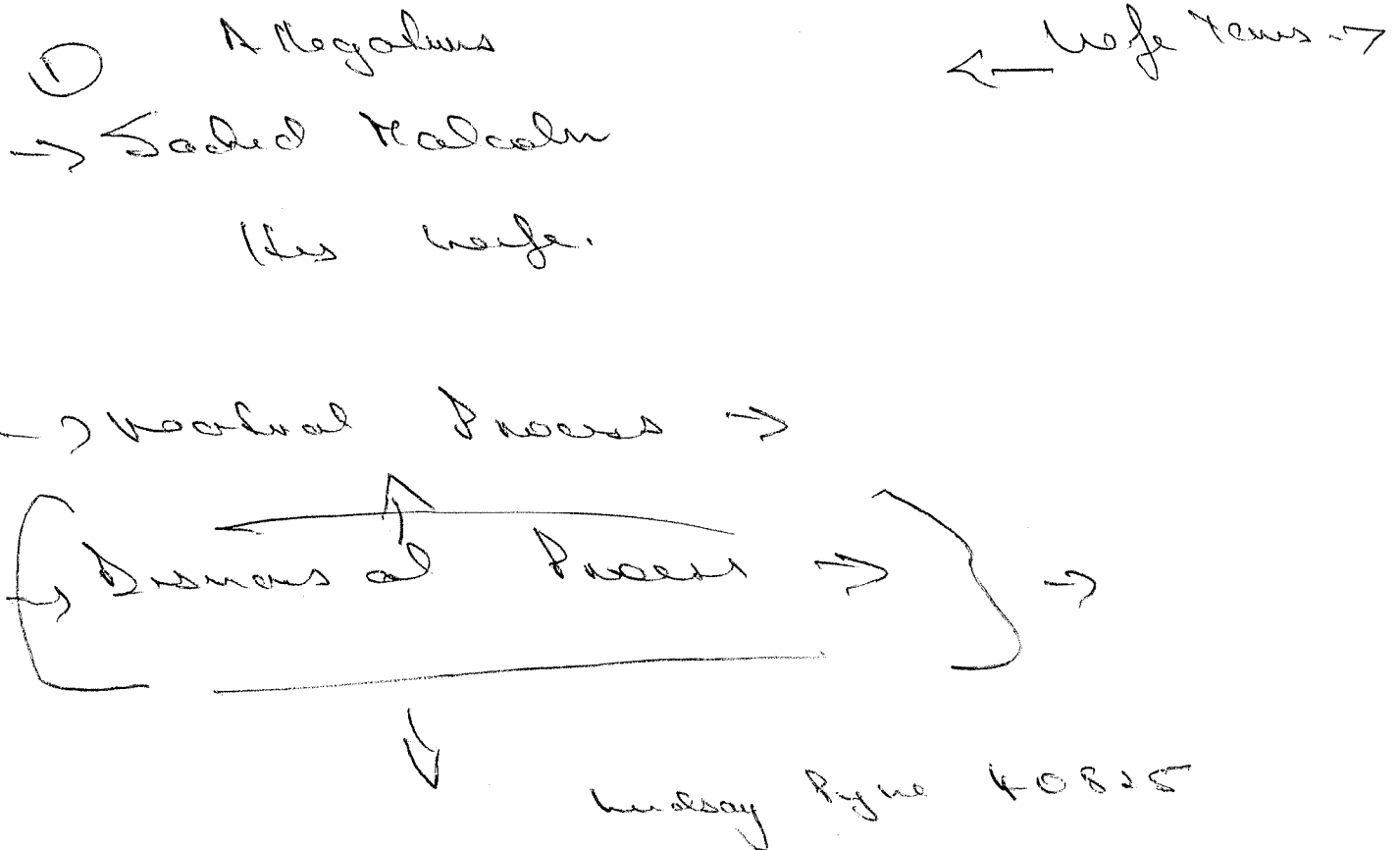
Media contact: Steve Bishop 07 3224 4500  
September 12, 2000.

**Richard Cleal**

From: Cathy Newman  
Sent: Friday, 3 November 2000 9:34  
To: Richard Cleal  
Subject: You received a Phone Call, contact matt varghese.

Date and Time: 03/11/2000 9:33:00  
Message Type: a Phone Call  
MessageReadPage: a Phone Call  
Please Contact: matt varghese

b'berg base hospital please call 0741 502536 re Dr Stumer



① ~~Stumer.~~

① Stumer.

↓

② Medical Board

③ Regular Meetings

④ Written Report.



## Richard Cleal

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**From:** Matt Varghese [Matt\_Varghese@health.qld.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 October 2000 14:45  
**To:** richard.cleal@ministerial.qld.gov.au  
**Subject:** Dr Stumer's position

Dear Richard,

I have noticed that Dr Stumer's position of Director of Obs & Gyn has been advertised in Thursdays newspaper. Dr Stumer has not resigned from the position and is on forced study leave at Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Has Queensland Health any concept of industrial relations ?

Have a good weekend

Regards and best wishes

Matt Varghese

# Richard Cleal

From: Matt Varghese [Matt\_Varghese@health.qld.gov.au]  
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2000 14:33  
To: richard.cleal@ministerial.qld.gov.au  
Subject: Meeting with the Premier 5/9/00



\*\* PRIVATE \*\*

Dear Richard,  
Please find attached a summary of the meeting of the 5/9/00.  
I would very much like to discuss with you the position of the director of O&G  
Dr Malcolm Stumer.  
Regards and best wishes  
Matt Varghese  
DCF Member

① Director Obstetrics + Gynaecology  
↓  
Dr Malcolm Stumer.

Wife / wife

Do not what he was charged with /  
evidence  
why forced, to go on study leave.

→ We chose to respond

Basis - chose to respond.

Study Course

8 weeks / could on return sit exam.

→  
→ Peers

Heater

→ Concern

→ working

→ Peer Career / Pers.

→ Solicitor.

→ working

→ Peers - Poor Outcomes

→ Skills Update →

→ Medical Board Not

Obstetrics Panel  
valued skills  
at Royal Brisbane.

Respects her

② Local Surgeons

handed

now  
None in Brisbane

③ Stumer. Not to  
Reasons

④ Stumer's change  
Policy  
Individual Concern

Debate - OK

Remaining 500  
2000

Needs to be reviewed

Don't accept  
Qualifications.

→ Liability →

6/10/2000  
Bundaberg Base Hospital  
Po Box 34  
Bundaberg  
4670 Qld

Present: Union representatives of the Bundaberg Health Service District DFC

- ASU
- AWU
- CFMEU
- QNU
- QPSU

Apologies: -  
LHMU

Meeting was held with the Premier, Mr Peter Beattie in Conference Room at the Bundaberg Base Hospital 12:45 – 13:15 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2000 Conference Room Level 3.

#### Problems Perceived

1) Leadership      Corporate office  
                                 Zonal  
                                 Districts – Executive

Problems with leadership at a local level.

Unethical behaviour with hidden agendas.

Improper process:- example - 3 Clinical directors being denied natural justice.

One of these has resulted in the mental health unit falling over.

You are on notice that you could end up with another ward 10B

- Lack of consultation and communication

Queensland Health and Local Management does not seem to believe in consulting with staff and unions

- Senior staff have been forced to go on leave

Replacements have been brought in to the establishment from outside of the district leading to:- Breaking down of career paths

Destroying of culture at a local level

Opportunities have been non-existent in some instances  
due to non filling of some positions

- H.R department is a disgrace. It is a managerial tool.  
Staff and unions are seen as “enemy”

- We have concerns about Queensland Health’s workload commitment.  
Eg:- Senior staff did a review on Childers and Gin Gin hospitals with recommendations to increase administrative hours. The employer has recognised the workload and the need for extra hours, however, due to the

lack of funding it is not possible. Queensland Health has a commitment to recognise extra stress and unfair workload issues. While recognising these, they are not addressing them.

## **2) Zonal Office**

- Perceived to serve own self interest rather than that of the patients and staff
- Regionalism is a disgrace - 3 zones instead of 13

## **3) Funding**

- Grossly under funded
- Struggle with historical budgets
- Casemix has shown funding is inadequate
- Health gerrymander

Tragedy that the taxpayers money is wasted this way.

4) We have concerns that Queensland Health could unwittingly show the government in a poor light, which could trigger the downfall of the current government.

## **Solution**

Inquiry – We need a full independent inquiry (not Qld Health) to look at the facts and talk to the staff. Unions would be fully supportive of organisational change in an ethical organisation. Union delegates are harassed in an underhanded way.

## **Outcomes**

We requested a Judicial Inquiry, but Mr Beattie instead suggested an investigation by the Premiers Department into our concerns. This matter is to be conducted by Mr Richard Cleal, who is a representative of the Premiers office. Mr Cleal was to make a written report to the representatives present at meeting.

DCF Union Job Representatives



**Queensland  
Government**  
Queensland Health

# FAX MESSAGE

**BUNDABERG BASE HOSPITAL  
PATHOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC SERVICES**  
WIDE BAY GROUP  
Queensland Health  
GPO Box 34, Bundaberg Q 4670

**TO:** Fax: 07 3224 6821  
Name: Richard Cleal  
Organisation: Office of the Premier  
Date: 6/10/00

**FROM:** Fax: (07) 4150 2539  
Phone: (07) 4150 2530  
Name: Matt. Varghese  
Position: Supervising Scientist

**CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION**

**SUBJECT:** Bundaberg Base Hospital

Pages 2 (Inclusive)

FYI

Regards + best wishes  
Matt. Varghese  
QPSU DCF member

This facsimile is a confidential communication between the sender and the addressee. The contents may also be protected by legislation as they relate to health service matters. Neither the confidentiality nor any other protection attaching to this facsimile is waived, lost or destroyed by reason that it has been mistakenly transmitted to a person or entity other than the addressee. The use, disclosure, copying or distribution of any of the contents is prohibited. If you are not the addressee please notify the sender immediately by telephone or facsimile number provided above and return the facsimile to us by post at our expense.

If you do not receive all of the pages, or if you have any difficulty with the transmission, please notify the sender.



## PROFILE

### Bundaberg

#### Opening Address

As Secretary of the Bundaberg & District Local Medical Association (BDLMA), I am delighted to present our first AMAQ News Profile and take this opportunity to outline an issue of major concern to the BDLMA – the workforce situation at Bundaberg Base Hospital.

For many years Bundaberg Base Hospital has been regarded as the most efficient regional hospital in Queensland. This of course is an administrative euphemism for referring to the least resourced hospital. Because of the historical basis used for ascertaining hospital funding the logic dictates that if a hospital managed without a service last year (and nobody complained too loudly) then it can manage without it again this year. Our LMA would be pleased to see evidence of equitable and realistic funding of comparable hospitals across Queensland.

The "efficiency" of Bundaberg Base Hospital has taken a toll in recent months on senior medical staff with the resignation of 5 of the 8 clinical directors. Specialist medical staff morale in the hospital is at a low ebb with many positions filled by temporary and locum staff. Local sources consider that the hospital requires funding for an additional 11.65 specialist FTEs to provide a satisfactory level of specialist medical services, in line with those of comparable regional hospitals.

At our most recent meeting, held on 16 August, LMA members met with AMAQ Industrial Relations Officer, Joanna Minchinton and Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation Qld (ASMOFQ) Industrial Officer, Rupert Tidmarsh, and discussed the recruitment and retention of appropriately qualified medical staff to regional centers and potential implications for community health care. Both Joanna and Rupert will be attending future Bundaberg LMA meetings to provide ongoing support regarding these issues and to filter local concerns to AMAQ.

**DR MARTIN STRAHAN**

*Secretary, Bundaberg & District Local Medical Association*

#### Committee

<b>President</b>	Dr Howard Kingston
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr David Merefieid
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr Martin Strahan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr John Branson

#### Objectives

Medical practitioners in Bundaberg associated for decades as a sub-branch of the British Medical Association, then as a sub-branch of the Australian Medical Association and for the past four years as a Local Medical Association. The BDLMA has relinquished its former role in medical education. Its objectives now are to promote the medical profession in the Bundaberg area and represent its members regarding professional, health and medico-political issues at a local level. Our LMA also strives to provide an appropriate forum to focus on the general and social interests of its members.

#### Membership and Committee

The BDLMA is inclusive in its membership considering every medical practitioner within the District to be a member unless they request otherwise. Thus there are currently approximately 120 members of whom about 45 make an annual financial contribution to the Association.

#### Meetings/Functions

Meetings of members are held second monthly for discussion of Association business and the minutes of these meetings are distributed to all members. An Annual Meeting is held each October and an Annual Dinner, to which the AMAQ President is always invited, is held in the middle of winter. A Presidents Function has been held each February in conjunction with Bundaberg Base Hospital medical staff and a Christmas function concludes the annual social program.

#### Recent Significant Event

BDLMA recently sponsored a CPR training course for local medical receptionists/nurses, which proved very successful. Because of greater than anticipated demand the 4 hour course had to be offered in 4 sessions attracting a total of 60 participants.

#### Why is it important to form part of a regional group of doctors?

LMAs have the potential to command considerable influence in their local area and often play a pivotal role in shaping health policies that affect their regions. Input is constantly sought from LMAs by local media outlets seeking comment on health matters. Our LMA has a direct link to AMAQ, which facilitates communication of grass root issues to AMAQ, the state's only independent medical representative organisation.

#### How to participate in the BDLMA?

If you would like to inquire about membership of the BDLMA or ensure you are on the mailing list to receive advice about Association activities, please contact me directly on telephone (07) 4153 0746.

If you have further LMA information you would like to share with AMAQ News, please contact Rachel Luton @ the AMAQ Secretariat

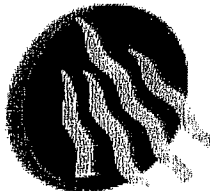
AMAQ

PO Box 123, RED HILL QLD 4059

Tel: (07) 3872 2209

Fax: (07) 3856 4727

Email: [r.luton@amaq.com.au](mailto:r.luton@amaq.com.au)



# Queensland Government

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

TO:

CATY COLLEGE

FROM:

RICHARD CLEAL

FAX:

DATE:

13-11-00

PAGES:

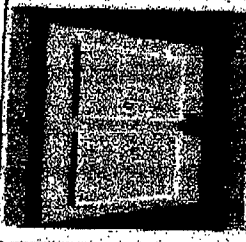
5

COMMENTS:

Could you ring me about  
this

Executive Building 100 George Street Brisbane Queensland 4000 PO Box 185 Brisbane Albert Street Qld 4002  
Phone: (07) 3224 4500 Fax: (07) 3221 3631 Email: [thepremier@premiers.qld.qld.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@premiers.qld.qld.gov.au) [www.thepremier.qld.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.qld.gov.au)

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DOOR OF HOPE

**VIV & BETH MORSE**  
**23 Payne St Bundaberg**  
**QLD, 4670**  
Phone / Fax : (07) 41532753  
Email : viv\_morse@bigpond.com.au

Sunday, 05 November 2000.

Premier's Office;  
Policy Advisor to the Premier;  
Richard Cleal.  
Albert St.  
Brisbane.

Dear Mr. Richard Cleal.  
Business. Dr. Malcolm Stummer.

I write this letter with some serious concerns. My concerns focus on different directions and they are natural justice and the matter of ethics and honesty. Dr. Stumer has been threatened with de-registration and dismissal from his employment as a doctor at the Bundaberg Hospital.

Some of the inferences or charges are:

1. He is not of a sound mind. I have personally known Malcolm for four (4) years. During this time, I have sought his advice on matters relating to my work. His advice has been logical and been of great help. I have never known him to be anything but level headed, compassionate and in control of his faculties. It is intriguing that at the end of 1999 Dr Stumer was presented with an award for excellency in his profession which acknowledged surely he was of sound enough mind to receive that award approved by the Minister for Health. Early 2000 he then was on ten (10) weeks holiday. My query is how did he become so unbalanced in the remainder of time until August to become so unstable that he be dismissed.
2. When requesting information through his solicitor on what were the charges nothing was forthcoming. Even when a list was requested through the Freedom of Information again nothing was forthcoming.
3. I understood from Premier Beattie that a person was entitled to a fair trial where **all** the evidence was truthfully presented and was innocent until proven guilty. This was stated by him when relating to Mr D'Arcy and Mr Mooney. If seeking his debarring goes ahead then he is denied natural justice as these hearings are often delayed for many months.
4. It was stated that he has not co-operated with Brisbane Women's Hospital for the total "re-education" programme. This is incorrect, as he has never said he would not comply. My major concern is that of justice and truth.
5. Another fact that cannot be disputed is that Dr Stumer's position was advertised and he was not advised of this fact which implies that they did not wish to reemploy him.

1/4



As evidence comes to me, I will continue to send it to you. This has and will become a real political issue and many people are outraged at what is happening at this Bundaberg Base Hospital.  
Thank you for taking the time to read this. I trust you will respond within seven (7) days to acknowledge you have received this letter. Others letters will follow.

Copies to M B  
A M A  
Other bodies.

..... *V. Morse* ..... Rev. Viv Morse  
B A Counselling  
Diploma of Theology  
Diploma of Building Construction and Technology.

2/4



# MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Dr Malcolm Stumer  
**From:** John Wakefield/Acting Director of Medical Services  
**Subject:** Senior Staff Specialist Status Application

---

Please find attached the notification from the Employment Relations and Strategies Unit of your successful application for appointment to Senior Staff Specialist status.

I would like to congratulate you on this achievement and recognise the support that you continue to provide to the Bundaberg Health Service District under difficult circumstances.

I have informed Human Resource Management of this and you should discuss with the Pay Office the adjustment to your salary scale.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Wakefield', written over a horizontal line.

**Dr John Wakefield**  
Acting Director of Medical Services

3/4

10/12/99 14:00

061 7 3234 0314

INDUSTRIAL REL. BUNDABERG DHS

001/002



# MEMORANDUM

To: District Manager

Copies to:

From: Dennis Krarup, Employment Relations Officer

Contact No: (07) 3234 0058

Fax No: (07) 3234 0314

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR STAFF SPECIALISTS

File Ref: 0033-3051-004

Reference is made to the Panel review process for appointment to Senior Staff Specialist for 1999.

On the recommendation of the relevant Panel of Peers, the Honourable the Minister for Health has approved that the specialists listed in the attached Appendix A, be appointed as Senior staff Specialist as from 1 July 1999. The unsuccessful applicants in this round will be advised directly in writing by the Panel of Peers.

The District Health Service should now take action to advise the successful applicants as appropriate of the approval and adjust their salary to the Senior Staff Specialist effective from 1 July 1999. HRM and Payroll staff should be advised of the new classifications to ensure payroll and personnel records are adjusted accordingly.

Should any of the applicants require the return of particular publications or documents, could they please contact Mr Dennis Krarup on (07) 323 40058 to make the necessary arrangements.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B Hayward'.

B Hayward  
A/ Manager

Employment Relations and Strategies Unit

9/12/1999

Noted

cc: A/oms  
HRM

reply

4/4

① Allegations against

Other Staff

(But no values)

(Complaint not)

② Action taken as result complaint

Soft -> Retraining

Hard -> Medical Board

Too Soft!

③ No direct allegations State of Mind.

- Embedded Standard Question

Decision making ability

④ Got For Staff last week

Only Medical Board can order  
Psychiatric assessment.

⑤ Yes Medical Board - Copies of all allegations  
Charges

(Disbanded!)

Time  
{ Empower  
Disband }

⑥ Royal Commission - Training Issues  
Disbanded - did not participate.  
Dr. Khoo.

(7) A detailed history - no one  
connected.

Wole Allegations  
Medical Board \*

(Independent Company)

NO direct allegations  
Proper Process followed.

MEMO

DrD Not  
Send

**TO: CATHI COLLIER  
SENIOR POLICY ADVISER  
OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**FROM: RICHARD CLEAL  
POLICY ADVISER  
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

**RE: CORRESPONDENCE FROM VIV AND BETH MORSE RE  
DR MALCOLM STUMMER**

**DATE: 13.11.00**

.....

I have received the attached correspondence from Viv and Beth Morse concerning Dr Stummer.

This is an issue I have already discussed a number of times with Lindsay Pyne the Central Zone Manager as a result of questions from Union delegates when the Premier attended a meeting with them in Bundaberg on 12 September 2000.

As this issue has now been raised by someone from outside the Hospital could you please provide me with a brief on the issues raised. I would appreciate it if the brief included a response to each of the 5 issues raised.

I understand that the matter will be heard by the medical board on Wednesday.

Thank you for your assistance

**Richard Cleal**



BUNDABERG REFRIG.  
AND ELECTRICAL PTY  
Phone 4153 1

November 22, 2000 Serving the Bundaberg region

Phone 4153 8555

# Report card fails hospital

By Sandra Godwin

BUNDABERG Base Hospital failed in almost every category in the first report card on the state's public hospital system, with doctors confirming it was beset by funding, staffing and morale problems.

The damning Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) branch report was based on 144 responses from general practitioners and specialists at 37 hospitals.

Bundaberg doctors anonymously reported "an appalling lack of services", with inexperienced doctors in Accident and Emergency turning away patients with unstable angina, and a lack of follow-up care forcing diabetes or heart patients to get by alone or travel to Brisbane.

The hospital's administration was lambasted for its "cavalier disregard for patient care" and most staff felt management was "more interested in making the place not look too bad from a political point of view" than in caring for the sick.

"We have staff shortages right across the board — nursing staff, junior and senior medical staff — leading to overworked and unhappy staff and poor conditions for patients," one doctor wrote.

"Medical administration is attempting to address the problems but it is happening too slowly."

The AMAQ has called on the state government to implement four recommendations, including a moratorium on closures and cuts, the infusion of specific funding, an audit of bureaucracy and the establishment of a task-force.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond has dismissed the concerns as irrelevant, saying they were based on responses from only 144 of the 3600 doctors who worked in the public hospital system.

But AMAQ president Dr Shane Sondergeld yesterday said some doctors had declined to take part because of concerns about job security.

"They're being reminded..."



Student Tynelle Koehler and friend  
come from school yesterday.

Photo: TANYA BRADSHAW rain2111

## go away

istent cloud was causing  
aches by reducing the quality  
duce.

We're very thankful for the  
but we don't really want any  
e," he said.

CONTINUED - page 3

### HOW WE FARED

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff shortages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialties in crisis situation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sufficient medical officers to cover medical requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sufficient medical officers to cover relief requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bed closures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ward closures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff cuts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funding cuts in the past two years
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Under-funded positions or services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Close-downs or staff reductions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Established medical positions unfulfilled
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low staff morale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reducing patient stays
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patients discharged prematurely
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patients affected by changes to outpatient services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patients' rights to quality care affected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adverse outcomes on hospital records

✓ = Pass X = Fail

code of conduct within Queensland Health & that they're not allowed to speak out," he said.

Several Bundaberg doctors have declined to speak to the News-Mail about conditions at the hospital because of fears they would be sack breaching the confidentiality clause in their

## OPINION

**news-mail****Patients failed**

THE report card issued about Bundaberg Base Hospital by its doctors is damning.

The outcomes in Bundaberg and elsewhere in the state justify the Australian Medical Association's decision to conduct the survey.

The results clearly show that the state government's rhetoric about health care is far removed from the truth.

And equally clearly this is being reflected in the quality of care afforded to patients, despite the official denials.

This is not the fault of the staff, who do their best with the available resources.

The level of health funding is simply inadequate to meet the rapidly increasing demand.

Extra funds must be found from other departmental budgets, otherwise public patients will continue to die needlessly while waiting for treatment.

**ROD REHBEIN**  
Editor

**Sacked members caused trouble**

FIRSTLY let me state that I understand how wars start when irresponsible journalists twist everything to sell papers.

Yes, there were 30 to 35 people at the Riverside Enterprise Centre, but all except six were responsible members of the association.

The "lynch mob" mentioned were six people out of 16 who had had their membership terminated, not for putting in a vote of no confidence in the president, but for bringing the station into disrepute by their actions.

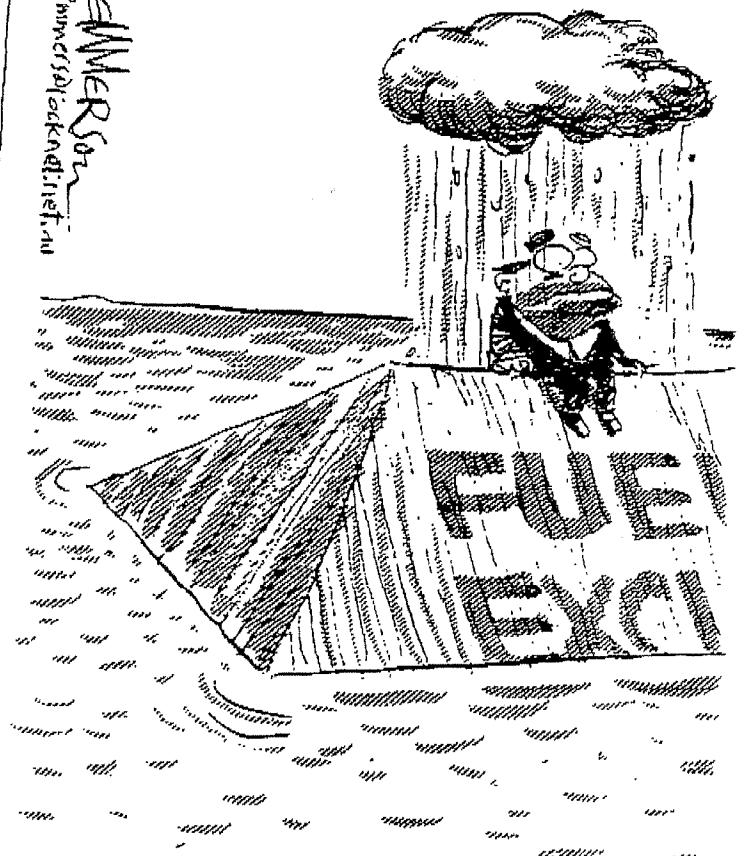
We have been subjected to phone calls and threats all hours of the day and night, and my wife was abused while waiting for me outside the radio station.

I was not the only member of the committee who was resigning that night.

All of us were going, except Wayne Batkines, as well as many other responsible members who had just had enough.

The six whose membership had been legally terminated did not want the legal members to have the chance to hear the truth, because this would have made it impossible to win any appeal against their termination.

AMHERST  
amherst@ozemail.net.au

**LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR**

PO Box 3006,  
Bundaberg DC 4670  
Fax: (07) 4151 2993

E-mail: nmeditor@ozemail.com.au

We have a number of responsible young presenters of Teen Scene who have been on air for many months and we have received nothing but praise for their show.

When we received the letters from Drug Arm and Lifeline about the other program, we, as responsible people, took appropriate action.

Because of the rabbles' reaction, we held a general meeting and put our case to members and called for a vote of confidence in the management committee.

They gave us their overwhelming support, but still the harassment continued. These people are nothing but "ten dollar DJs" who have done little to help the station.

Their most outstanding achievement to date has been to get us on the front page of the paper for the wrong reasons.

KEITH WRIGHT

celebrations. This is a "shiny bums" do it r

That is, have the fect place. Corowa South Wales, better location town, moving all involved in this e-berra, north central.

This fixation will very thin indeed.

If Johnny and the cluding our own, lik Canberra down, move tinue to make stupid with a red dirt floor.

That should keep a

**Fuel price  
Meals on**

THERE is no doubt the ling costs of fuel is ir one within the comm

This was more than significant number of ten and presented ora eral parliamentary fu Of particular conce





**Queensland  
Government**  
Queensland Health

# **FAX MESSAGE**

**BUNDABERG BASE HOSPITAL  
PATHOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC SERVICES  
WIDE BAY GROUP  
Queensland Health  
GPO Box 34, Bundaberg Q 4670**

TO: Fax: (07) 32246821  
Name: Richard Cleal  
Organisation:  
Date: 22/11/00

FROM: Fax: (07) 4150 2539  
Phone: 07 4150 2531  
Name: Matt Vaghese  
Position:

**CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION**

SUBJECT: Front page of Bundaberg News-mail f  
Editors report

Pages 3 (Inclusive)

Dear Richard,

F41

Matt .

This facsimile is a confidential communication between the sender and the addressee. The contents may also be protected by legislation as they relate to health service matters. Neither the confidentiality nor any other protection attaching to this facsimile is waived, lost or destroyed by reason that it has been mistakenly transmitted to a person or entity other than the addressee. The use, disclosure, copying or distribution of any of the contents is prohibited. If you are not the addressee please notify the sender immediately by telephone or facsimile number provided above and return the facsimile to us by post at our expense.

If you do not receive all of the pages, or if you have any difficulty with the transmission, please notify the sender.



## A BRIEFING TO THE MINISTER

**Queensland  
Government**  
Queensland **Health**

**BRIEFING NOTE NO:** BR012941

**REQUESTED BY:** Shari Armistead (SDLO)

**DATE:** 17 January 2001

**PREPARED BY:** Peter Heath, Director of Corporate Services  
Bundaberg Health Service District

**CLEARED BY:** Peter Leck, District Manager  
Bundaberg Health Service District

**DEPARTMENTAL  
OFFICER ATTENDING:**

**DEADLINE:** 15 January 2001

---

**SUBJECT:** Bundaberg Hospital – all funds spent on Bundaberg  
Hospital for the years 1998/99; 1999/00; 2000/01

---

**MINISTER'S COMMENTS:**

Wendy Edmond MLA  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

/ /

## **PURPOSE:**

To provide advice on all expenditure at the Bundaberg Hospital over the past three (3) years.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The following information provides some detail on expenditure within the Bundaberg Hospital and Community Health Services since 1998/99. Summarised below is funding provided for enhancements or new services during this period.

Expenditure for 2000/01 is estimated.

## **KEY ISSUES:**

Expenditure	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001 Est	2000/2001
<b>Bundaberg Hospital</b>	\$33,640,356	\$35,719,536	\$38,930,165	\$19,472,079
<b>Bundaberg Community</b>	\$4,928,638	\$5,518,222	\$5,768,152	\$2,884,076
<b>Total</b>	\$38,568,994	\$41,237,758	\$44,698,317	\$22,356,155

<b>Capital Works (redevelopment)</b>	\$12,522,262	\$9,287,321	\$2,600,000	\$552,723
--------------------------------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	-----------

Additional services and funding provided each year			
Community	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Growth and Oncology			\$60,000
School Based Youth	\$25,500	\$95,000	\$109,000
Child Care Centres	\$24,361	\$48,722	\$48,722
Illicit Drug Task Force	\$35,000	\$54,990	\$54,990
Youth Suicide Prevention	\$44,557	\$44,557	\$44,557
Aids Medicare			\$170,000
Tripple P (parenting)	\$19,935	\$35,584	\$84,306
Mental Health 10 Year Strategy	\$668,172	\$1,128,984	\$1,128,984
Crime Prevention			\$50,000
ATSI		\$65,000	\$65,000
Aids Community			\$86,237
HepC		\$12,000	\$70,000
Palliative Care	\$88,135	\$148,433	\$130,675
Drug And Alcohol Strategies	\$9,000	\$52,191	\$50,000
<b>Bundaberg Hospital</b>			
Director Emergency Medicine	\$80,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Nursing - Emergency (1.4)	\$17,000	\$72,000	\$72,000
Home Dialysis (10 patients)			\$244,800
Network Services			\$660,000
Haemodialysis (4 patients – growth)			\$175,000
Rheumatology	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Elective Surgery Performance Fund	\$122,260	\$122,260	\$122,260
Surgical Incentive Fund	\$200,000	\$391,668	\$342,236
Targeted Elective (Orthopaedics)		\$250,000	\$100,000
Activity Growth 98/99	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Activity Growth 99/00		\$800,000	\$800,000
<b>Capital works</b>			
Rural Network Equipment			\$164,000
Renal Relocation (capital)			\$300,000
<b>Total New Services</b>	<b>\$1,748,920</b>	<b>\$3,916,389</b>	<b>\$5,685,458</b>

**BENEFITS AND COSTS:**

N/A

**ACTIONS TAKEN/ REQUIRED:**

N/A

**DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE:**

☐

ATTACHED

☐

NOT ATTACHED

# Minister for Health



## Media Release

7 October 1997

### BUNDABERG HEALTH FUNDS JUST AN EMPTY COALITION PROMISE

The Coalition Government made unfunded promises to provide a new CT scanner to Bundaberg Hospital, Health Minister Wendy Edmond has told Parliament.

Ms Edmond told the health Estimates Committee hearing that the scanner, an expensive piece of diagnostic equipment, was one of a list of unfunded commitments made by Coalition Health Minister Mike Horan.

However, Bundaberg will still get its scanner, thanks to the new Labor Government.

"Dropping Mr Horan's hospital tax has helped us improve services to communities like Bundaberg and to meet all of our health commitments," she said.

Ms Edmond told the Estimates Committee that Mr Horan's unfunded commitments, including Bundaberg's CT scanner, could cost around \$200 million.

"We had a Minister who seemed to be prepared to go around the State and say, 'Yes.. I will give you the money' on every street corner," she said.

"There are two very clear differences between the 1998-'99 health estimates of this Labor Government and those of the previous government --- this Minister's commitments are fully-funded," she told the Estimates Committee.

"Labor's record State health budget of \$3.722 billion boosts health spending and will increase services to people around the state, including those at Bundaberg.

"Our health budget is \$129 million more than the previous Government had planned to spend on health in 1998-'99.

"We will create more than 900 new jobs delivering health services and around 9,000 construction jobs in capital works projects around the state."

Ms Edmond said on top of the unfunded promises, the Coalition had made a billion-dollar public hospital commitment which would cost every Queensland, man, woman and child, more than \$260 a head.

The previous Minister had left Queensland a "scandalous legacy" with contracts signed just before the state election was called.

"Queensland now has a \$909 million bill to buy **public health** services from **private hospitals** on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts over the next 20 years," Ms Edmond said.

Ms Edmond told the health Estimates Committee hearing in State Parliament that the previous Government had signed one 20-year hospital service contract the day the State election was called and another four days before.

ends

Media inquiries:

John Stock  
3234 1185



## Joint Statement

by

Health Minister Wendy Edmond

&

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham

Sunday October 25 1998

### BUNDABERG TO "TEST DRIVE" NEW STYLE CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

The State Government is to pilot a new style community child health centre at Bundaberg, providing extra back-up services to help parents and families.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond said the Bundaberg centre would involve expanding the services from the existing Community Child Health Centre at the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

"Queensland's community child health centres are a valuable asset which this Government believes can play a broader role in supporting our families," Ms Edmond said.

"Modern parents are often away from extended family networks and coping with the extra stresses of single parenthood and blended families with step-parents and step-children.

"Advice and support when things first start to get tough can help prevent later problems such as marital breakdown and child abuse."

Member for Bundaberg said the new service would be a real boon to young families in the area.

"Services like this help to strengthen family life, which is the whole basis of our community."

The expanded Bundaberg pilot will mean another child health nurse and extra services including:

- setting up support groups for parents and families,
- parenting programs, such as the Positive Parenting Program coordinated by the University of Queensland's Parenting and Family Support Centre and
- advice and referral to a broad range of government and non-government services.

An extra child health nurse will be on the job early in the New Year to help provide the extra services.

Ms Edmond said the centre would continue to provide its traditional support to parents, such as advice on baby feeding, nutrition, immunisation and developmental milestones.

## **BUNDABERG TO "TEST DRIVE" NEW STYLE CHILD HEALTH CENTRE/2**

The pilot centres would also offer follow-up home visits to new mothers who leave hospital early or have special needs.

Ms Edmond said the pilots would be assessed after 18 months and, depending on results, the program would be expanded to more child health clinics in areas of need.

Bundaberg is one of seven areas where the expanded child health centre concept is being piloted: Fraser Coast (Maryborough and Hervey Bay), Gold Coast, Mt Isa, Sunshine Coast, Logan-Beaudesert and Cairns.

ends

Media inquiries:

Nita Cunningham

4151 5799

Cathi Collier

(07) 3835 9900 Pager Number: 96151



172.98

# Joint Statement

by

**Health Minister Wendy Edmond**

**&**

**Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

Thursday, November 26, 1998

## **School Nurse to Tackle Local Youth Health Problems**

Bundaberg, Bundaberg North and Rosedale State High students are to get a school nurse to help prevent drug and alcohol problems, eating disorders and youth suicide.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond said the nurse would provide confidential support and advice to the 2,000-plus students at the two schools.

"The teenage years are a time when our young people need all the support and guidance they can get on issues like drugs, alcohol, sexuality and self image," she said.

"A familiar, trusted, independent person like the school nurse can be the key to early identification and treatment of problems like mental illness, anorexia, sexual and drug and alcohol abuse."

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the school nurse was a welcome addition to health services for families and young people.

"A school nurse is a practical and effective investment in the health and well-being of our young people by bringing readily accessible advice to them in their own environment," she said.

"This is a real boon for a remote community, on top of extra back-up services to help parents and families to be provided next year by our child health centre."

Ms Edmond said the nurse would be appointed in time for the start of the next school year.

The nurse will rotate between the schools, attending the same school on the same days of each week. The nurse will have a range of responsibilities, including counselling, nutrition information, detection of sexual abuse, eating disorders, drug and alcohol education, suicide prevention awareness and sexual health programs.

The State Budget brought down in September included \$700,000 for the first of the 100 school nurses to be placed in secondary schools over the next four years.

Ends

Media inquiries:

Nita Cunningham 4152 1476

Jan Martin (Minister's office) 3234 1190





221.99

**Joint Statement  
By  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
And  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

**7 January 1999**

**New Parenting Program For Bundaberg**

Bundaberg has been selected as one of the first 15 locations in Queensland to offer free courses for parents.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham jointly announced the decision today.

Ms Edmond said the courses were being offered through the State Government's Early Intervention and Parenting Support Initiative.

"This initiative is part of the Government's strengthening families and crime prevention strategy," Ms Edmond said.

"International and national research shows that early intervention is the best way of strengthening communities and reducing anti-social behaviour in the long term.

"Early behavioural problems in children can be a factor which leads to crime in later life.

"The Government believes that assistance should be provided to parents and families to help them overcome problems before they take root.

"The Early Intervention and Parenting Support Initiative will eventually provide free parenting programs to Queensland parents in 30 locations across the state, with Bundaberg being one of the first 15 sites scheduled to commence offering services early this year," she said.

The locations have been determined on the basis of an analysis of:

- socio-economic disadvantage;
- birth rates (especially births to young parents);
- indicators of distress; and,
- opportunities to trial Indigenous models.

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the courses provided a "terrific" opportunity for Bundaberg families.

## **2/ New Parenting Program For Bundaberg**

"As part of this initiative, the first parenting program to be offered to parents in Bundaberg will be the Positive Parenting program known as Triple P," Mrs Cunningham said.

"I would encourage any parent with young children to take these courses when they are available," Mrs Cunningham said.

She said parents interested in the program should contact the Bundaberg Child Health Centre at Bundaberg Base Hospital on (07) 4150 2700.

Ms Edmond said parenting programs such as Triple P better equip Queensland parents with the tools to build positive relationships with their children.

"This eases family tensions and strengthens family units," Ms Edmond said.

Triple P aims to take the stress out of parenting and make parenting easier by providing practical advice and support. Trained and accredited child health staff will work directly with parents - individually and in groups - to impart a range of parenting skills which will help parents to recognise common behavioural problems and encourage desirable behaviour in children.

"In order to reach as many parents as possible Triple P parenting programs will be provided by trained and accredited child health nurses from a range of settings in the local community, including community centres, child care centres, kindergartens, preschools and schools," Ms Edmond said

The program's remaining 14 locations across the State are: Browns Plains, Edmonton (Cairns), Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Logan Central, Maroochydore, Maryborough, Mt Isa, Nambour, Palm Beach, Rockhampton, Southport, Smithfield (Cairns) and Townsville.

Ends

For further information :  
Ministerial Media Adviser  
John Algate  
(07) 3234 1185



227.99

**Joint Statement**  
**by**  
**the Minister for Health Wendy Edmond**  
**and**  
**the Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

**11 January 1999**

**Bundaberg BreastScreen Service Awarded Accreditation**

The BreastScreen Queensland Bundaberg Service has been awarded full accreditation by the BreastScreen Australia National Quality Management Committee.

In a joint statement Queensland Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the accreditation would further boost the confidence women in the Bundaberg and Maryborough areas had in the service.

"This means that local women can be assured the service they receive meets top international standards," Ms Edmond said.

The service is located in the grounds of the Bundaberg Base Hospital while a relocatable service travels extensively through the district.

"Women have already expressed their confidence in the service," Ms Edmond said.

"The number of local women screened in the last year grew 80 per cent from 4,515 in 1996/97 to a record 8,190 in 1997/98."

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the Bundaberg Service would not be resting on its laurels, setting a higher screening target for the remainder of 1998/99.

"The accreditation involved a thorough review of every aspect of the service including clinical practice, office procedures and counselling," Mrs Cunningham said.

"The Bundaberg BreastScreen Queensland Service can be justifiably proud of its accreditation knowing that it is an integral part of a quality statewide service which is contributing to a reduction in deaths and illness from breast cancer.

"I congratulate all the staff involved in the service. This accreditation is a commendation of the professional attitude of staff in ensuring the free breast screening service provided to women is of the highest quality," Mrs Cunningham said.

Ms Edmond said Queensland Health provided free breast cancer screening services for women aged over 40 years through a statewide network of BreastScreen Queensland Services.

## **2/ Bundaberg Breastscreen Service Awarded Accreditation**

“It should be emphasised that while clinic screening is urged for women without symptoms, women who have a suspect lump should seek urgent diagnosis through their G.P.,” Ms Edmond said.

“The relocatable service from Bundaberg is currently located in Maryborough and due to move to Gayndah in early February,” Ms Edmond said.

“I would encourage women aged 50-69, where research has shown breast screening to have the most benefit, who have not yet had a free breast screen to ring 13 20 50 to make an appointment.”

For further information:

John Algate

(07) 3234 11 85



228-99

**Joint Statement  
By  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
And  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

**11 January 1999**

**Increased funding assists Bundaberg Palliative Care Patients**

The State Government will provide a 96 per cent boost in funding for essential palliative care services in the Bundaberg District Health Service.

In a Joint Statement Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the District Health Service would receive an extra \$43,175 for the remainder of this financial year, with a commitment to continue funding levels for 1999/2000.

"This will bring the Beattie Government's commitment to local palliative care services to \$88,175 this financial year," Ms Edmond said.

"Palliative care supports terminally ill patients to help them live as actively as possible for as long as possible and helps families and carers cope during a patient's illness," Ms Edmond said.

Ms Edmond said the funds would be used to purchase palliative care coordination services and provide additional medical staff hours to assist with pain management and allow terminally ill people to remain in the comfort and privacy of their own home if they choose.

Ms Edmond said she had been impressed by the practical suggestions made by palliative care providers she met at the Bundaberg Community Cabinet in September.

"I was particularly impressed with the way they were all working together and I am pleased to meet the needs they had identified," Ms Edmond said.

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said palliative care services supported patients and families through one of the most difficult times in their lives.

"There are many Bundaberg families who will benefit greatly from the additional services this money can provide," Mrs Cunningham said.

For further information:

Ministerial Media Adviser  
John Algate  
(07) 3234 1185

# Minister for Health

## Media Release

15 January 1999

### **New Dentists In Bundaberg**

Three new dentists have been appointed to fill vacancies in the Bundaberg Oral Health Services, the Health Minister, Wendy Edmond, said today.

Ms Edmond said the three had commenced work upon graduating from the University of Queensland.

She said their appointment would help ensure that high quality dental services are available to residents in the Bundaberg district.

One of the appointees, Dr Geoff Findlay, started work at the Bundaberg Hospital dental clinic just prior to Christmas.

"I grew up in Gin Gin and know the local area well," he said. "The service in Bundaberg offers terrific experience in a range of dental practices, including oral surgery. Colleagues and staff have been supportive and friendly."

Another new recruit, Dr Kitty Lai, said she was looking forward to working with local children in the school dental service. She said she was impressed by how friendly everyone was in Bundaberg.

The third new dentist, Dr Burhaan Kassim, was looking forward to working and living in a provincial community.

Bundaberg District Health Service Manager Mr Peter Leck said he was pleased by the high calibre of the applicants for the Bundaberg positions and said the appointees would assist in increasing services to the community.

Media inquiries: Peter Leck, District Manager on 4150 2020  
or Steve Rous, Ministerial Media Advisor on (07) 3234 1190

**Editors: For your information, these are the 1999 School Dental Therapy Graduate Placements:**

**Gold Coast District - 2 dental therapist graduates**

**Rockhampton District - 2**

**Townsville District - 1**

**Redcliffe/Caboolture District - 2**

**Mackay District - 1**

**Proserpine - 1**

**Roma District - 1**

**Cairns District - 3**

**Nambour - 1**

**Noosa - 1**

**Mount Isa District - 2**

**Toowoomba District - 2**

**Tablelands District - 1**

**Logan/Beaudesert District - 1**

**West Moreton District - 1**

**Innisfail District - 1**

**Banana District - 1**

## Media Release

25 February 1999

### **Minister Announces Bundaberg Rescue Package**

A rescue package to help address the Bundaberg Hospital budget problems was announced today by the Health Minister, Wendy Edmond.

In Bundaberg to open the new Mental Health Intensive Care Unit, Ms Edmond said she had approved a package of measures that would help address the local operational problems.

She said Bundaberg Hospital's problems were unique. They resulted from poor management decisions over the previous two years.

Before approving this package, Ms Edmond had been presented with other alternatives, but she had rejected all options that involved staff or service reductions.

"There is no easy solution to the problems which we have inherited," Ms Edmond said.

"But there is no way that I would accept any option in which patients or staff would be made to pay for the poor management decisions of the past.

"What I have approved is a range of measures designed to help put Bundaberg Hospital back on the right financial track."

The total value of the measures in the package was around \$1 million.

Part of the package involves additional funding for Bundaberg, redirected from the overall health budget. These funds will come from central programs, not from other health districts.



Ms Edmond also announced that additional surgery would be done at Bundaberg Hospital.

"I have instructed Bundaberg Hospital that meeting elective surgery targets is a priority. The District is currently negotiating to employ a specialist to address the present problem of an unacceptably high number of people who are waiting too long for orthopaedic surgery," Ms Edmond said.

The Waiting List situation at Bundaberg needed addressing, but the Department's latest quarterly reports show it is not as bad as it was a year ago.

The total number of Category 1 (urgent) patients on the Waiting List for elective surgery at Bundaberg Hospital for the 1 January 1999 quarter was 2. This compares with 6 patients on the Waiting List in the 1 January 1998 quarter, when the Coalition was in government.

The number of Category 2 (semi-urgent) patients on the Waiting List for elective surgery at Bundaberg Hospital for the 1 January 1999 quarter was 381. This compares with 485 patients on the Waiting List in the 1 January 1998 quarter, when the Coalition was in government.

In both categories, the Waiting Lists under the Beattie Government are much improved over the corresponding period under the Coalition Government.

This is the only valid comparison, comparing like with like, because Waiting Lists are influenced by seasonal factors. For example, January quarters are generally the worst in the year because elective surgery activity virtually ceases around the holiday season.

**Media inquiries:** Steve Rous (07) 3234 1190

## Media Release

15 March 1999

### **Bundaberg orthopaedic surgeon to enhance patient service**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond today announced that orthopaedic surgical services had been increased in order to address the needs of local patients who have been waiting too long for surgery.

Negotiations were successfully completed with a local surgeon to provide the orthopaedic service, in line with the special package of initiatives which the Minister announced recently in Bundaberg.

"That package was approved following representations by the Member for Bundaberg, Nita Cunningham," Ms Edmond said.

"Nita was concerned about the budget situation and ensuring that we continue to maintain and continue to improve the level of health services in the Bundaberg district."

The orthopaedic surgeon began his clinics on March 9 and additional operating theatre sessions will be available from Monday, March 15.

These additional services will enable increased throughput of patients waiting for arthroscopies and joint replacement surgery.

She said this comes immediately after another enhancement to health services in Bundaberg – the establishment of a rheumatology clinic.

Dr Alex Klestov, the Director of Rheumatology at the Royal Brisbane Hospital commenced the monthly service at Bundaberg Base Hospital in February. The Member for Bundaberg, Nita Cunningham, had presented a petition to the Premier and the Minister calling for the establishment of a rheumatology clinic.

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*Media inquiries: Steve Rous on (07) 3234 1190*

## Media Release

22 March 1999

### **Bundaberg District Health Council Appointment**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond announced today that Bundaberg solicitor Ms Chris Clements, has been appointed to the Bundaberg District Health Council.

Ms Edmond said that Ms Clements brought to the Council a wealth of skills and experience.

Ms Clements is Solicitor-In-Charge at the Bundaberg office of Legal Aid Queensland. She is also a Family Court approved Children's Representative, a Queensland Law Society approved Mediator, and a participant in the Bundaberg Inter-Agency (Government and Community) Group.

"I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that Ms Clements has agreed to this appointment and it has been approved by His Excellency, the Governor," Ms Edmond said.

The appointment is effective immediately and is for a term of office running through to 22 December 2000.

**Media inquiries:** (07) 3234 1190



325.49

**Joint Statement  
By  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
&  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

**26 April 1999**

**Bundaberg Hospital Moves to Cut Waiting Lists**

Record numbers of Queenslanders are receiving elective surgery, according to figures released today by the State Government.

The March quarter public hospitals *Elective Surgery Waiting List Report* reveals an extra 4616 Queenslanders received elective surgery in the first nine months of this financial year, compared with the same period last year.

"That is a tremendous achievement by the public health system during a time of unprecedented demand and all staff deserve to be congratulated," said Health Minister Wendy Edmond.

Ms Edmond said the March quarter report showed 88,659 people received elective surgery in the first nine months of this year, compared with 84,043 at the end of March 1998 – an increase of 5.5 percent.

There was also encouraging news in regard to the number of people waiting "too long" for surgery. According to national benchmarks, Category 1 (urgent) patients should be seen within 30 days; Category 2 (semi-urgent) patients should be seen within 90 days and Category 3 (non-urgent) patients should ideally be seen within 365 days.

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said there has been a significant improvement in the waiting list for elective surgery at the Bundaberg compared to the same time in 1998.

"Once again Bundaberg Hospital has performed exceptionally well in Category 1 with no patients waiting longer than the recommended time," Ms Cunningham said.

"The *Elective Surgery Waiting List Report* for 1 April 1999 shows that Bundaberg hospital had reduced the proportion of semi-urgent Category 2 patients waiting longer than 90 days for surgery from 45.6 per cent or 203 patients at 1 April 1998 to 32.8 per cent or 140 patients at 1 April 1999," Mrs Cunningham said.

"There are still delays in Orthopaedic Surgery at Bundaberg Hospital but the Government has provided an extra \$200,000 that will be used exclusively to treat Category 2 Orthopaedic patients who have waited longer than the recommended maximum of 90 days for joint replacement surgery," Mrs Cunningham said.

## **2/ Bundaberg Hospital Moves to Cut Waiting Lists**

Ms Edmond said the Government was clearly reducing the number of Queenslanders waiting too long while at the same time greatly increasing the throughput for elective surgery.

"When you consider that elective surgery is just one part of the business of a hospital and that in the first nine months of this year an estimated additional 16,500 patients were treated at our public hospitals compared with this time last year, you can see that the public health system is performing very well in Queensland," Ms Edmond said.

"While I am pleased with this result I fully recognise that waiting lists by their nature go up and down depending on other demands outside of the health system's control. In winter months, for example, we traditionally see an increase in medical rather than surgical patients being admitted to hospital."

The March Quarter report will be available to General Practitioners and surgeons next week.

"This means doctors know the best places to refer patients for earliest treatment," Ms Edmond said.

"By publishing the waiting lists we are also able to identify areas which need special attention."

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**



**Joint Statement**  
**by**  
**Health Minister Wendy Edmond**  
**&**  
**Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

**29 April 1999**

**More Support for Queensland Families**

The State Government is throwing more support behind parents in the Bundaberg area with a move to recruit a child behaviour specialist to work with parents experiencing difficulties.

The recruitment of a part-time psychologist (or social worker with the necessary experience) is an extension of the Triple P positive parenting program, which was introduced in Bundaberg earlier this year.

In a joint statement the Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said 20 positions were being recruited across Queensland to assist parents.

The \$1.24 million recruitment is part of the State Government's Early Intervention and Parenting Support Initiative.

Ms Edmond said free specialised programs for Bundaberg children, adolescents and their families would focus on early intervention.

"International and national research shows that early intervention is the best way of strengthening communities and reducing anti-social behaviour in the long term," Ms Edmond said.

"This Government is taking decisive action to help parents and families overcome problems before they get out of control."

Ms Edmond said the new behaviour management specialist would work as part of a team with the child health nurse and with school-based youth health nurses to implement parenting programs and provide early intervention services.

"They will specifically focus on individual support for families with high needs," Ms Edmond said.

"A reciprocal referral relationship between the Child/Community Health Service and the Child and Youth Mental Health Service will further enhance the support available for young people and their families in Bundaberg."

Ms Edmond said the behaviour management specialist would receive training in the Triple P Positive Parenting Program from the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland.

"This initiative is a major element of the State Government's Crime Prevention Strategy and involves collaboration and consultation across all relevant departments and with non-government agencies," Ms Edmond said.

"One of the major issues raised during the Government's community consultations on crime prevention was the need for parenting support and early intervention."

Ms Cunningham welcomed the announcement and the benefits it would bring to the Bundaberg community.

"I'm very pleased to see that Bundaberg families will receive this level of support, which has been needed for a long time," Ms Cunningham said.

"This initiative of the Beattie Labor Government demonstrates a commitment to crime prevention and addressing the real needs of families experiencing difficulties."

Parents and families in Bundaberg should contact the Child Health Centre for more details.

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**



36A-90

**Joint Statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
&  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

17 May 1999

**School nurses for North Burnett and Bundaberg**

Students at State high schools in the North Burnett and Bundaberg will have access to school nurses for confidential counselling and support, Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham announced today.

The schools are Kepnock SHS, Rosedale SS (P-10), Gayndah SHS, Monto SHS, Biggenden SS (P-10), Eidsvold SS (P-10) and Mundubbera SS (P-10).

Ms Edmond said the State Government would recruit an additional 27 school nurses across Queensland to help reduce drug and alcohol problems, eating disorders and youth suicide.

"School nurses have a range of responsibilities including counselling, nutrition information, detection and reporting of sexual abuse, eating disorders, drug and alcohol education, suicide prevention awareness and sexual health programs," Ms Edmond said.

"They provide information and guidance to young people experiencing problems and can refer young people to other health and welfare professionals."

Ms Edmond said 23 school nurses had already been appointed by the State Government, part of a four-year initiative to employ school nurses across Queensland.

"The focus of Labor's new directions for health are disease prevention and early intervention," Ms Edmond said.

"The early identification and treatment of problems like mental illness, anorexia and drug and alcohol abuse will ensure a healthier generation of young adults."

Ms Cunningham said more than 2,200 students at Bundaberg and North Burnett schools would benefit from the initiative.

"The program that started with the appointment of a sister based at Bundaberg High School at the start of the school year has now been expanded greatly," Ms Cunningham said.



"The school nurse has been a valuable asset for the school and has been welcomed by parents, teachers and students.

"It is great news for Bundaberg that Kepnock and the other high schools have now been included in this program so the whole district can benefit from this important initiative."

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**



# Minister for Health

## Media Release

June 9, 1999

### MINISTER FOR HEALTH SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT BUNDABERG HOSPITAL

Health Minister Wendy Edmond has attacked the "part-time" Member for Burnett for spreading misleading information about Bundaberg Hospital.

"Once and for all I want to make it clear that we are greatly expanding outpatient services," said Ms Edmond.

"What is being phased out is simply a part-time, private doctor, general practice clinic situated at outpatients."

"In the early 90s it was open 24 hours a week and under the Coalition Government was cut to nine hours a week."

"A private doctor clinic that bulk bills low income families has now opened across the road and I do not apologise for encouraging people to attend their local GP to ensure continuity of care.

"However, any member of the community who turns up for treatment at Bundaberg Hospital will not be turned away.

"The petition that was tabled today by the Member for Burnett is deliberately misleading and talks about the closure of the outpatients facility.

Ms Edmond read from the Petition in Parliament (Hansard attached).

"The Bundaberg News Mail ran a story and photo on the opening of the expanded outpatients services section at Bundaberg Hospital on May 25. Specialist clinics rooms have trebled from five to 15.

"This campaign by the part-time Member for Burnett to mislead the older, vulnerable people in Bundaberg is deplorable," said Ms Edmond.

"Health care is available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Ms Edmond.

"With regard to Mr Slack's request for a "censure" for Misleading Parliament, the Speaker has found there is no case to answer. Mr Slack is well aware that this is the case," Ms Edmond said.

**Media Contact**

**Shari Armistead**

**3234 1190**

# Minister for Health

## Media Release

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17 June 1999

### **New Member for Bundaberg District Health Council**

A new community representative has been appointed to the Bundaberg District Health Council.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond has announced the appointment of Councillor Janet Tallon.

Councillor Tallon is also a member of the Hospital Foundation. She replaces Dr M Moreny who resigned from the Council.

"Council members play a role in representing the views and needs of their community as well as contributing to the efficient and effective functioning of health services at the district level," Ms Edmond said.

"Councils should aim to be an effective link between Queensland Health and the community and develop close working relationships with neighbouring councils."

The Council's term of office expires in December 2000.

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**

DRAFT

29 June 1999

### **Funds boost for local home and community care services**

The Blue Nursing Service's Bundaberg Centre will receive capital funding of \$98,000 for respite equipment and a new bus as part of a funding package announced to aid local frail older people and younger people with disabilities and their carers.

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the funding is part of a \$11.2 million boost to Queensland Home and Community Care (HACC) announced this week by Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the Federal Minister for Aged Care Bronwyn Bishop.

"HACC is a joint federal/state program that provides care, support and services to frail older people, younger people with disabilities and their carers," Ms Cunningham said.

"Bundaberg Transcare and the Isis Community Care program each received \$65,000 of capital funding for new vehicles and office equipment.

"This HACC funding will assist existing services and provide a range of new services for Queensland communities including respite, home and personal care, and vital transport services allowing individuals to stay in their own homes.

"Health Service Districts and community groups were consulted in the development of the funding package demonstrating the government's aim of providing appropriate local services for communities across the State where people live," Ms Cunningham said.

**Media enquiries to**

## Media Release

29 July 1999

### **BUNDABERG HOSPITAL RESCUE PACKAGE – THE FACTS**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond moved to correct some inaccuracies today about the rescue package provided to Bundaberg Hospital earlier this year.

Ms Edmond announced a \$1 million dollar package in February to help meet the hospital's budget blowout created by poor management decisions over the previous two years under the Coalition Government.

"That money was a one-off rescue package that was not required to be paid back to corporate office," Ms Edmond said.

"Specific Purpose Funding however, is tied funding and it is normal budgetary practice for this money to be returned to corporate office if it is unspent.

"The same process occurred last year and the year before that the year before that.

"These two financial issues are quite separate and should not be confused.

"Efficiencies brought in during 1998/99 by the current management will continue to improve the financial situation at Bundaberg. Management should be congratulated for their efforts in this regard.

"I am optimistic that this year's budget, to be finalised in September, will further address Bundaberg's operational problems.

"This year's budget will include additional funding for mental health, school nurses and parenting programs," Ms Edmond said.

# Minister for Health



## Media Release

9 August 1999

### MINISTER FOR HEALTH ASKS FOR MORE CONSULTATION WITH BUNDABERG BASE HOSPITAL STAFF

Minister for Health Wendy Edmond today asked the Director-General to instruct the District not to implement the recommendations of the Bundaberg Base Hospital Review of Linen and Operational Services until appropriate consultation has been ensured.

"I do not want to impose my views about the outcome of any local reviews of operational staff at the Bundaberg Base Hospital. However, having listened to the concerns of staff about the manner of decision making in this case, I must ensure that the Labor Government's position is adhered to regarding effective consultation," Ms Edmond said.

"The Director-General has distributed excellent guidelines on consultation for the use of management in Health, *Change Management – Guides for Managers and Change Agents*.

"I have instructed that District Management be advised to strictly adopt these guidelines. Workshops and management training will be organised by the Department to ensure all Districts understand the guidelines and adhere to them.

"I will ensure that employees are not denied their right to timely and full involvement in informed consultation about issues which effect their employment.

"One of the strongest messages for this government has been job security for its employees. This government is committed to job security and we are delivering permanent employment for any permanent staff who wants that work.

"Within Queensland Health rapid changes in the delivery of clinical and support services has meant that employees are being asked to respond to challenges to the way their work has been performed.

"It is fundamental to the success of the changes sought that employees are treated fairly and respectfully," Ms Edmond said.

Media Contact

Shari Armistead

3234 1190

# Minister for Health



## Media Release

17 August 1999

### Minister reaffirms commitment to Bundaberg Hospital staff

Health Minister Wendy Edmond today reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to job security for staff at Bundaberg Hospital.

Ms Edmond said recent newspaper reports about hospital staffing levels were based on an out of date memorandum from 5 May this year which had not been acted on or endorsed.

"The memorandum clearly predates my public statement on 9 August this year when I asked the Director-General to instruct the District not to implement any such proposals," Ms Edmond said.

"I have made it clear to Queensland Health, District management and the unions that matters such as these must be conducted in accordance with government policies.

"We have assured staff at Bundaberg Hospital that any permanent employee who wants a job will have one.

"I have also insisted that where matters affecting the interest of any employees are concerned proper consultation will take place.

"Clearly an attempt is being made to sabotage the process of consultation and associated goodwill which I have put in place.

"I reaffirm that this is a genuine process responding to concerns which have been raised and there are no predetermined outcomes."

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**



## MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
and  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham

19 August 1999

### Emergency staff boosted at Bundaberg Hospital

The Queensland Government will allocate \$92,000 in the upcoming State budget to boost staffing levels in the emergency department of the Bundaberg Hospital.

In a joint statement Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the funding would allow the Hospital to permanently fill two emergency nurse positions trialed on a temporary basis for two months late last financial year.

"Emergency nurses facilitate the workflow through the Department," Ms Edmond said.

"The fact the Government has allocated recurrent funding for the positions is, I believe, firm evidence of our commitment to ensuring the people of Bundaberg have access to timely and safe emergency department services. "

Ms Edmond said improving emergency department waiting times was one of the central elements of the Government's eight point *Waiting List Reduction Strategy* launched last year.

"And getting the right mix of staff in the emergency medicine workforce across Queensland is one of the most important steps in the process", Ms Edmond said.

"In 1998, we dedicated \$1.3 million to fund 17 emergency specialist positions in 15 hospitals across the State which provided a solid platform upon which to address waiting times in emergency departments."



Mrs Cunningham said the appointment of extra emergency nurses at Bundaberg Hospital was a continuation of that strategy and would make a significant contribution towards reducing overall waiting times.

"This is further evidence of the State Government's commitment to providing high quality health services in Bundaberg," Mrs Cunningham said.

"The emergency department at Bundaberg received another significant boost earlier this year when a full time Director of Emergency was appointed in January.

"While others are busy knocking our excellent hospital in Bundaberg, I have been advocating strongly for additional staff and services where they are most needed.

"I am delighted that Bundaberg Hospital has been selected to share in this latest initiative."

Ms Edmond said that as well as Bundaberg, additional registered nursing positions would also be created in the emergency departments of the Ipswich, Redcliffe, Logan, Mackay and Mt Isa hospitals.

Ms Edmond said that in total the Government would allocate over \$590,000 on a recurrent basis to support the positions.

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**

## Media Release

2 September 1999

### **Bundaberg Hospital Stage One Redevelopment Open to the Community**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond today officially opened new facilities at Bundaberg Base Hospital marking the first stage of the \$26.77 million hospital redevelopment.

"Bundaberg Hospital has built first class health facilities that are purpose-designed to meet the needs of this community," Ms Edmond said.

"The dedicated staff at Bundaberg Hospital now have modern, efficient facilities in which to deliver quality paediatric, intensive care and outpatients services.

"New models of care and new medical technologies also help to upgrade services for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"A new CT scanner is also being purchased to improve diagnostic services, and this is expected to be installed by the end of the year.

"The second stage of the Bundaberg Hospital redevelopment is due for completion early next year and that will provide a new main entrance and admissions area to make it easier for the community to access hospital services.

"There will also be a new accident and emergency department, operating theatres, cardiac care, day surgery and day chemotherapy facilities."

Ms Edmond also announced a new package to assist the Bundaberg Base Hospital address waiting times for orthopaedic surgery.

"An orthopaedic surgeon in Maryborough, Dr Jim Khursandi, has volunteered to begin a visiting service to Bundaberg," Ms Edmond said.

"He will see patients who have been waiting for an outpatient clinic appointment."

"The service will be provided on an interim basis while the Hospital's full time orthopaedic surgeon is absent on extended sick leave."

The service will be available to those patients who are prepared to have their surgery at the Maryborough Base Hospital.

I'm pleased that a number of orthopaedic specialists have assisted the Bundaberg Health District to maintain services during this period," Ms Edmond said.

**Media Contact: John Algate 3234 1191**



## Joint Statement

by

Health Minister Wendy Edmond

and

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham

8 September 1999

### **Further boost for Bundaberg Health Services**

Health services in Bundaberg have had another significant boost with the decision to refurbish the Child and Youth Mental Health facilities at Bundaberg Base Hospital.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the \$280,000 refurbishment was in addition to the major redevelopment now well underway at the hospital.

"There has been a significant expansion of mental health services in Bundaberg and the refurbishment reflects our growing interest in this area," Ms Edmond said.

Ms Edmond said the improved facilities would include additional consulting rooms, group therapy rooms and interview rooms.

Mrs Cunningham said she was delighted the improved services would be available in Bundaberg.

"This means our child and youth services will be able to offer more support to children who are at risk of developing anxiety disorders, affective disorders, psychosis and conduct disorders," Mrs Cunningham said.

"Young people who are harming themselves, are suicidal or living with a family member who has mental illness or are experiencing severe dysfunction at home or school will also have improved access to support."

The refurbishment is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"This is a real bonus," Mrs Cunningham said.

"It comes on top of the \$297,233 boost in recurrent funding for child and youth mental health in Bundaberg last year.

We have been working diligently with the Health Minister to address a range of health issues in Bundaberg and the results of these efforts are now obvious for everyone to

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**



## Joint Media Statement

by

Health Minister Wendy Edmond

and

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham

**14 September 1999**

### **Additional \$2 million to Bundaberg Health Service District**

The State Government will allocate an additional \$2 million in recurrent funding to Bundaberg Health Service District in 1999/2000, Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham announced today.

Ms Edmond said the District's State base operating budget would be increased by \$1.2 million with an additional \$800,000 provided in growth funding, providing the total of \$2 million increase in recurrent funding.

"The extra funding will guarantee high quality health services in and around Bundaberg," Ms Edmond said.

"District management will be able to build on operational improvements introduced last financial year and look to expand services in areas of need.

"Management is already looking at the specialist services needed in the District, in particular orthopaedic services.

"On top of that, initiatives such as the school nurse program and parenting program can also be expanded.

Mrs Cunningham said the two extra nursing positions trialed in the Bundaberg Hospitals' emergency department last year have been made permanent.

"An extra nurse has also been appointed to the District's school nursing program," Mrs Cunningham said.

“And this is in addition to the hundreds of jobs created through the hospital’s rebuilding program.”

Mrs Cunningham said the Government would invest some \$9.4 million in the redevelopment of the Bundaberg Hospital during 1999/2000.

She said the allocation would ensure the \$26.95 million project remained on track.

“This year’s funding will contribute to the completion of the link building as well as the refurbishment and re-equipping of other existing facilities,” Mrs Cunningham said.

Ms Edmond said the initiatives such as the redevelopment in Bundaberg supported the Government’s commitment to providing health services closer to where people lived.

**Media enquiries to John Algate 3234 1185 or Shari Armistead 3234 1190**

## Media Release

Thursday, 14 October 1999

### **New Chair for Bundaberg District Health Council**

A new community representative has been appointed to the Bundaberg District Health Council.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond has announced the appointment of Mr David O'Brien who will also chair the council.

Mr O'Brien is a partner in a Bundaberg legal firm and active in community and sporting associations. He replaces the Reverend Philip Freier who resigned following a church appointment to Darwin.

"I look forward to Mr O'Brien providing strong direction to the council in representing the views and needs of the community as well as contributing to the efficient and effective functioning of health services at the district level," Ms Edmond said.

"This year, the State Government allocated an extra \$2 million in recurrent funding to the District, including an extra \$1.2 million in the base operating budget and \$800,000 in growth funding.

"The District is well placed to build on operational improvements introduced last financial year and to expand services in areas of need.

"The \$26.77 million hospital redevelopment and service initiatives such as the school nurse program, free parenting course, increased funding for HACC and palliative care, and the extra staff for the emergency department and community based mental health care are signs that health services are expanding to meet community needs.

"The council can provide an effective link between Queensland Health and the community in explaining how the health service works to meet changing needs," she said.

The Council's term of office expires in December 2000.

### **Media Contact:**

John Algate  
32341185

## **DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday 17 December 1999

### **HOSPITAL'S ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICES RECEIVE MAJOR BOOST**

Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham today welcomed a funding package for the enhancement of orthopaedic surgical services at the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

Mrs Cunningham said annual recurrent funding of \$500,000 had been allocated to employ a second specialist orthopaedic surgeon as well as the required support services, such as anaesthetics, nursing staff, and physiotherapy services.

"I am delighted that a second orthopaedic surgeon has already been employed in a temporary capacity and will start work in January 2000," Mrs Cunningham said.

"The permanent position will be advertised early in the new year to enable a merit based recruitment process to occur.

"This service enhancement will mean patients who have been travelling to Brisbane for orthopaedic surgery will be able to receive care in Bundaberg.

"This Government is committed to reducing waiting times for elective surgery and this funding will enable the Bundaberg Hospital to increase its activity.

"With two full time surgeons working in Bundaberg we can very quickly expect to make significant inroads into elective surgery waiting lists," Mrs Cunningham said.

*Released by Nita Cunningham*

## Media Release

24 December 1999

### **IMPROVED QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT BUNDABERG HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT**

Minister for Health Wendy Edmond today announced incentive funding of almost \$700,000 to further progress a program to improve and maintain quality standards in mental health services across the State.

Ms Edmond said the program would ensure that Queensland Health delivered consistently high standards of mental health services, based on a process of continuous improvement and continuous monitoring of outcomes.

"The Bundaberg Health Service District will receive \$36,000 allowing its mental health services to move closer to national benchmark standards," Ms Edmond said.

"Mental health services will need to meet compliance benchmarks in four key areas – risk management, outcome measurement, consumer participation and professional development – in order to be accredited against the national standards by the year 2003.

"The benefits from this will be more timely responses for mental health consumers and carers, plus other improvements in line with the Australian Health Ministers' *Mental Health Statement of Rights* and the United Nations' *Principles on the Protection of People with a Mental Illness*.

"Queensland was the first state to introduce minimum service standards for mental health care in 1993 and is now moving towards the optimum National Mental Health Standards required by the Australian Health Care Agreement," Ms Edmond said.

**Media Contact:**

**Shari Armistead**

**3234 1190**





Joint statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
&  
Member for Bundaberg, Nita Cunningham

6 April 2000

**Boost to Bundaberg's indigenous health services**

Indigenous people in and around Bundaberg should soon have better access to health services following the State Government decision to employ new indigenous health workers in the district.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond said the Government had approved \$65,000 in recurrent funding for the Bundaberg Health Service District to recruit a full time and a part time indigenous health officer.

"The new positions have been established as part of a plan developed by the Health Service District in conjunction the local Indigenous Health Forum to deliver more culturally appropriate services to indigenous people within the district," Ms Edmond said.

"The officers, once appointed, will specifically focus on alcohol, tobacco and other drug services, and mental health services which have been identified by the Forum as priorities," Ms Edmond said.

State Member for Bundaberg, Nita Cunningham, said the health officers would work closely with the community to improve awareness of mental health, drug and alcohol related problems and of the health services available to help people to deal with these problems.

Mrs Cunningham said the State Government was committed to working with indigenous communities to help improve health service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"The Bundaberg Health Service District has been working with the Indigenous Health Forum since 1998 to identify health care priorities and improve access to services," Mrs Cunningham said.

"Working with the Forum ensures the views of the community are considered in all decisions on the services to be provided."

Mrs Cunningham said the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in health care positions would help to improve the health status of indigenous communities.

**Media enquiries to John Algate on (07) 3234 1185**



**Joint Statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
&  
Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham**

**26 April 2000**

**Special effort sees Bundaberg Hospital significantly improve waiting list**

Direct action has paid off for Bundaberg Hospital with the latest *Elective Surgery Waiting List Report* for the March quarter showing that the Labor Government's waiting list strategy is working.

Compared to the same period in 1998 when the Coalition was in power, the percentage of people waiting too long for Category 2 semi-urgent elective surgery at Bundaberg Hospital has significantly improved.

In a joint statement Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham praised the long-term efforts of Bundaberg Hospital staff.

Mrs Cunningham said the Report showed a significant improvement in the semi-urgent waiting list for elective surgery compared to last quarter, the same time last year and the same time in 1998.

"Bundaberg Hospital has reduced the proportion of semi-urgent Category 2 patients waiting longer than 90 days for surgery from 45.6 per cent, or 203 patients, at 1 April 1998 to 13.2 per cent, or 49 patients, at 1 April 2000," Mrs Cunningham said.

"The March quarter Category 2 figure - 13.2 per cent, or 49 patients is also a significant improvement on the January quarter's Category 2 figures at 33 per cent or 123 patients.

"The return of an orthopaedic surgeon from extended leave and the scheduling of additional orthopaedic surgery sessions has addressed the "long wait" problem.

"This is an excellent result. It is very positive to see that Bundaberg Hospital has been able to improve its elective surgery performance at such a high level.

"I congratulate the staff for the dedication they have shown during the past two years." Mrs Cunningham said.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond said the Bundaberg experience was being repeated across the State.

Ms Edmond said the Government was clearly reducing the number of Queenslanders waiting "too long" for elective surgery.

**Special effort sees Bundaberg Hospital significantly improve waiting list (continued)**

"When you consider that elective surgery is just one part of the business of a hospital (about 15% of all throughput) you can see that the public health system is performing very well in Queensland.

"While I am pleased with this result I fully recognise that waiting lists by their nature go up and down depending on other demands outside of the health system's control. In winter months, for example, we traditionally see an increase in medical rather than surgical patients being admitted to hospital and people tend to prefer to stay at home or go away on holiday over the Christmas/New Year festive season," Ms Edmond said.

"The March quarter report is being distributed to general practitioners and surgeons at the moment. This means doctors know the best places to refer patients for earliest treatment.

"By publishing the waiting lists we are also able to identify areas which need special attention," Ms Edmond said.

The Report is the eighth issued by Queensland Health since Labor introduced its *Waiting List Reduction Strategy* in July 1998.

**Media Contact**

**Shari Armistead**

**3234 1190**

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Joint Media Statement  
from  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
and  
Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham

24 May, 2000

**Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Complete**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond and local member Nita Cunningham today joined staff and community members to celebrate the completion of the \$27.25 million Bundaberg Hospital redevelopment.

Ms Edmond said this was a tremendous achievement for the community with Bundaberg now boasting one of the best regional hospitals in Queensland.

"The redevelopment has consolidated hospital services and community health services on the one site, and improved layout and integration of services within the main hospital buildings," Ms Edmond said.

"I congratulate staff, consultants and contractors for making timely progress with the building project since it started in 1998.

"When I visited the Hospital in September 1999, the Link Building was still under development. Today, I am delighted to announce the new Link Building is fully complete as well as the refurbishment to A Block, B Block and Main Block," Ms Edmond said.

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said Bundaberg Hospital now had modern and efficient facilities for emergency and acute services, inpatient and outpatient care.

"The Mental Health Unit has expanded, and a new Child and Youth Mental Health Unit now operates on the site," Mrs Cunningham said.

"More convenient access to the hospital is provided by the new front entrance and carpark.

"Plus, a new \$630,000 CT scanner was installed as part of an upgrade of medical imaging services at the hospital," Mrs Cunningham said.

Media Contact

Shari Armistead

3234 1190



Joint Media Statement from  
Minister for Health Wendy Edmond  
and  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham

24 May 2000

**HEALTH MINISTER AND LOCAL MEMBER TODAY MET WITH  
MOTHERS FROM BUNDABERG'S POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham met with local mothers today who had taken part in Queensland Health's positive parenting program (Triple P).

Ms Edmond and Mrs Cunningham had afternoon tea with mums and their babies at the Bundaberg Family Unit at the Bundaberg Hospital.

The Minister said she was pleased to hear from a number of mothers who have been using the Triple P this year that they are getting a lot out of the sessions.

"The sessions are run free of charge by trained and accredited child health nurses who provide encouragement and support in a professional and friendly environment," Ms Edmond said.

"I encourage all parents to take part in Positive Parenting Programs.

"The Triple P initiative is an important part of the Government's strengthening families strategy. We believe parents should be given the tools they need to help them overcome problems before they take root.

"Parenting programs such as Triple P better equip parents with the tools to build positive relationships with their children. This eases family tensions and strengthens family units.

"Triple P aims to take the stress out of parenting and make parenting easier by providing practical advice and support.

Mrs Cunningham said Triple P started in Bundaberg in June 1999.

"Since then 115 families have taken part in the course. Approximately 150 parents have also received advice and support through Triple P primary care," Mrs Cunningham said.

"An innovative introduction to the program, also offered by Bundaberg Triple P, is to combine it with antenatal classes.

"Bundaberg parents interested in finding out more about this free parenting course can contact Ms Michelle Maike, Child & School Health Nurse on 41 50 2700," Mrs Cunningham said.

## Media Release

22 June 2000

### **Funds boost for Bundaberg community care services**

Two services in Bundaberg will receive \$90,000 to establish new initiatives for local frail older people, people with a disability and their carers as part of a funding package announced today.

Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham said the Wide Bay HACC Training Project would receive \$75,000 for a new training plan for the 55 HACC projects in the Wide Bay area.

Mrs Cunningham said State Health Minister Wendy Edmond had also advised her that the Bundaberg Comprehensive Assessment Project would receive \$15,000 to research assessment tools suitable for the local area.

This funding is part of \$148 million provided jointly by the Federal and Queensland Governments for Queensland's Home and Community Care (HACC) services in 1999/2000.

Ms Cunningham said existing service providers in the Bundaberg Health Service District, including the Blue Nursing Service and the Gracie Dixon Respite Care Centre, have also received \$2,719, 569 in capital, recurrent and one-off funds to continue their work assisting local families.

"HACC is a joint federal/state program that provides care, support and services to frail older people, people with a disability and their carers," Mrs Cunningham said.

"The new training plan will include a training needs analysis, research and a three year plan to update the skills of staff working in HACC services in the area.

"There will be close liaison with other training bodies to avoid duplication of service and identify community need.

"This will assist frail older people and people with a disability to maintain their independence and continue to live in their local community," Ms Cunningham said.

"The State Government works closely with community groups and service providers to provide the best possible local Home and Community Care services across Queensland."

**Media enquiries:**

**John Algate**

**3234 1185**

## Media Release

21 July 2000

### **Renal services expanding to meet increasing demand**

Funding has been targetted in the 2000/2001 Budget for the expansion of renal services to meet increasing demands, Health Minister Wendy Edmond said today.

In addition to the \$1.7 million for enhanced renal services in the far northern areas of the State, there is funding to expand services in Queensland communities experiencing high demand.

"Bundaberg and Mackay have been identified as priorities," Ms Edmond said.

Ms Edmond said that the Mackay hospital redevelopment would give the hospital an increased capacity to serve more patients.

"We know there is a problem in Mackay and this is being addressed," Ms Edmond said.

"Bundaberg has a different situation – they have a shortage of space to cope with a huge rate of growth in demand for renal services.

"Over the past 12 months, there has been a 30 percent increase in demand for renal service in Bundaberg. The Bundaberg District has been asked to look at solving accommodation problems."

**Media contact:**

**Steve Rous**

**3234 1185**



**Joint Statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
&  
Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham**

**1 August 2000**

**Special effort sees Bundaberg Hospital significantly improve waiting list**

Direct action has paid off for Bundaberg Hospital with the latest *Elective Surgery Waiting List Report* for the June quarter showing that 97 percent of patients are being seen on time for urgent and semi-urgent surgery.

In a joint statement Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham praised the long-term efforts of Bundaberg Hospital staff.

Mrs Cunningham said the Report showed a significant improvement in the semi-urgent waiting list for elective surgery compared to last quarter, the same time last year and the same time in 1998.

"Bundaberg Hospital has reduced the proportion of semi-urgent Category 2 patients waiting longer than 90 days for surgery from 11.8 per cent, or 37 patients, at 1 July 1998 to 2.5 per cent, or 7 patients, at 1 July 2000," Mrs Cunningham said.

"Only one patient had waited longer than 30 days for Category 1 surgery.

"According to national benchmarks, Category 1 (urgent) patients should be seen within 30 days and Category 2 (semi-urgent) patients should be seen within 90 days.

"The return of an orthopaedic surgeon from extended leave and the scheduling of additional orthopaedic surgery sessions has addressed the "long waits".

"This is an excellent result. It is very positive to see that Bundaberg Hospital has been able to improve its elective surgery performance at such a high level.

"I congratulate the staff for the dedication they have shown during the past two years." Mrs Cunningham said.

Health Minister Wendy Edmond said the Bundaberg experience was being repeated across the State.

Ms Edmond said the Government was clearly reducing the number of Queenslanders waiting "too long" for elective surgery.

"When you consider that elective surgery is just one part of the business of a hospital (about 15% of all throughput) you can see that the public health system is performing very well in Queensland.



## **Special effort sees Bundaberg Hospital significantly improve waiting list**

"While I am pleased with this result I fully recognise that waiting lists by their nature go up and down depending on other demands outside of the health system's control. In winter months, for example, we traditionally see an increase in medical rather than surgical patients being admitted to hospital," Ms Edmond said.

"The June quarter report is being distributed to general practitioners and surgeons at the moment. This means doctors know the best places to refer patients for earliest treatment.

The Report is the ninth issued by Queensland Health since Labor introduced its *Waiting List Reduction Strategy* in July 1998.

**Media Contact:**

**Shari Armistead**

**3234 1190**



Premier of Queensland

## **STATE GOVT: \$1M EXTRA SERVICES FOR BUNDABERG HOSPITAL**

Additional services worth more than \$1 million at Bundaberg Base Hospital were announced today by Premier Peter Beattie and Health Minister Wendy Edmond.

Mr Beattie said that the Government had strongly supported representations by Mrs Cunningham seeking expansion of the hospital's renal services and additional staff for paediatrics.

"Following extensive consideration of the situation at Bundaberg, we have agreed that it is necessary to address the needs identified by Nita Cunningham," Mr Beattie said.

"Bundaberg has been experiencing some special circumstances in relation to increasing demand for renal medicine and we are responding to those circumstances," Mr Beattie said.

"Nita Cunningham has kept us well aware of the needs at Bundaberg Hospital and has been working with the Health Minister to ensure that we get the best possible results for Bundaberg."

Ms Edmond said the package comprised:

### **Renal medicine**

- A \$300,000 expansion of the renal dialysis unit with an increase to eight chairs and the capacity for future growth;
- Specialist medicine services and extra renal nursing services to be provided as visiting services through the Central Zone network.

### **Paediatrics**

- A new full-time paediatrician;
- Two new paediatric community-allied health positions.

### **Critical care**

- A new full time anaesthetist/intensivist;
- Critical care nursing education and training support.

### **Specialist services visiting sessions**

- General medicine and internal medicine;
- General surgery;
- Orthopaedic surgery; and,
- Additional Oncology sessions.

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Ms Edmond said the changes would mean that many Bundaberg patients who would have previously been sent to specialists in Brisbane would now be able to see them in their local community.

"We are bringing these specialists to Bundaberg so that local residents will have much easier access to the health care they need," Ms Edmond said.

Mrs Cunningham said: "I'm very pleased with all of these additional services, which respond to the emerging health needs of the people of Bundaberg, including increased demand for renal services, extra paediatric services and medical and surgical services.

"These enhancements will help the hospital continue to deliver quality health services to local people."

Mrs Cunningham said that these improvements at Bundaberg Hospital were in addition to a wide range of achievements in the past two years, including:

- completion of the \$27.25 million hospital redevelopment project;
- the purchase of a \$630,000 state-of-the-art CT scanner;
- commissioning of a new mental health unit;
- additional emergency department nurses;
- a 96 percent increase in palliative care funding;
- an expanded child health centre;
- introduction of the Positive Parenting Program; and,
- school nurses at Bundaberg, Bundaberg North and Rosedale State High Schools.

"We have had many worthwhile achievements at Bundaberg Hospital and this package is another important advancement," Mrs Cunningham said.

The total value of the enhancement package for the remainder of this year is \$1.045 million, which includes the one-off capital works funds of \$300,000.

The extra services will be maintained through additional recurrent funding of \$970,000 to the Bundaberg Health Service District.

Media contact: Steve Bishop 07 3224 4500  
September 12, 2000.



**Joint Media Statement  
from  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
and  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

**14 September 2000**

**Bundaberg hospital waiting times to drop further with local GPs' support**

General practitioners in Bundaberg will work on a new initiative with the Bundaberg District Health Service to make further reductions in public hospital waiting times.

The Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the member for Bundaberg, Nita Cunningham, today announced a \$277,000 program over three years to give about 20 GPs a more active role in hospital services provided for their patients.

"Bundaberg has difficulty attracting specialists, which can result in longer waiting times for some outpatient services", Ms Edmond said.

Working one session a week for up to six terms of 20 to 24 weeks under the guidance of hospital specialists, the GPs will help cover areas such as orthopaedics, dermatology, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry and palliative care.

The new arrangements will provide upgrades in skills and training of GPs.

"This will reduce the number of referrals to specialists, increase the number of patients who can be managed by GPs and foster better communication between specialists and primary health care providers," Mrs Cunningham said.

"Queensland Health will also offer the GPs an orientation and training program to update their skills in advanced resuscitation, recognition of life threatening and other acute conditions and categorisation of clinical cases to assist in the management of surgery waiting lists.

"The program will result in a much wider pool of medical knowledge and expertise for our whole community to ensure that the best possible health outcomes are enjoyed by patients treated in both the public and the private health settings."

Ms Edmond said other Health Service Districts throughout Queensland could take up the Bundaberg program if it proved to be successful over the next three years.

Ms Edmond said the Bundaberg program was one of eight initiatives in rural, regional and urban areas as part of a \$1.8 million National Health Development Fund package to enable general practitioners to work more closely with the State's public health system.

**Bundaberg hospital waiting times to drop further with local GPs' support  
(continued)**

She said better integration of private GP services and public health services could help reduce hospital waiting lists, cover gaps in the availability of specialists in regional areas and reduce the need for hospital readmissions.

Each of the projects was supported by the local doctors' Division of General Practice for the region and was consistent with the Commonwealth Review of General Practice Strategy (1998) and the Australian Health Care Agreement with the State Government.

**Media contact:     Steve Rous             3234 1185**



Joint Statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
&  
Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham

30 October 2000

**Bundaberg Hospital waiting lists continue positive trend**

The latest *Elective Surgery Waiting List Report* for the September quarter has further demonstrated that the Beattie Labor Government's waiting list strategy is working.

Compared to the same period in 1998 the percentage of people waiting longer than the recommended time for Category 2 semi-urgent elective surgery at Bundaberg Hospital has significantly improved.

In a joint statement, Health Minister Wendy Edmond and the Member for Bundaberg Mrs Nita Cunningham praised the hard work and dedication of Bundaberg Hospital staff.

Mrs Cunningham said the latest Report showed a significant improvement in the urgent and semi-urgent waiting lists for elective surgery compared to the same time in 1998.

In the latest quarter, 96.3 percent of Category 1 patients had their surgery on time while 80 percent were on time in the same quarter in 1998. In the latest quarter, 96.6 percent of Category 2 patients had their surgery on time compared with 83.7 percent in 1998.

"The employment of a visiting medical officer in orthopaedics performing an extra three sessions a week has helped reduce the waiting list in this specialist area.

"Plus, an additional \$1 million enhancement package provided in September will contribute to further improvements," Mrs Cunningham said.

"It is very positive to see that Bundaberg Hospital staff have once again achieved a much improved result compared with what we had two years ago."

Health Minister Wendy Edmond said she was pleased with the Bundaberg results and the fact that similar improvements were being experienced in regional centres across the State.

**Bundaberg Hospital waiting lists continue positive trend (continued)**

She said the Government's strategy was aimed at reducing the number of Queenslanders waiting longer than recommended times for elective surgery.

"When you consider that elective surgery is just one part of the business of a hospital (around 18% of all throughput) you can see that the public health system is performing very well in Queensland," Ms Edmond said.

"While I am pleased with this result, I fully recognise that waiting lists by their nature go up and down depending on a whole range of circumstances outside of the health system's control.

"In winter months, for example, we traditionally see an increase in medical rather than surgical patients being admitted to hospital. In summer, people tend to prefer to go away on holiday over the Christmas/New Year festive season. So the waiting lists are affected by a number of factors, many of which we cannot control," Ms Edmond said.

"The September quarter report is being distributed to general practitioners and surgeons at the moment. This means doctors know the best places to refer patients for earliest treatment.

"By publishing the waiting lists we are also able to identify areas which need special attention," Ms Edmond said.

The Report is the tenth issued by Queensland Health since Labor introduced its *Waiting List Reduction Strategy* in July 1998.

**Media Contact****Shari Armistead****3234 1190**



**Joint Media Statement  
from  
Minister for Health Wendy Edmond  
and  
Minister for Local Government and Planning  
and  
Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham**

4 December 2000

**New Permanent General Surgeon for Bundaberg Hospital**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Minister for Local Government and Planning and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham today announced the appointment of a new full time general surgeon to the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

Ms Edmond said Dr Sam Baker would take up his specialist role in January replacing locum surgeon Dr Patrick Daly, after completing his current appointment with Royal Brisbane Hospital in Brisbane.

"This is great news for the people of Bundaberg," Ms Edmond said.

"Dr Baker was a Queensland Health scholarship holder and later underwent 6 months advanced surgical training at Bundaberg Hospital.

"It is pleasing to see that Queensland Health's incentive programs are working to attract doctors to provincial areas," Ms Edmond said.

Mrs Cunningham said she was pleased that Dr Baker was returning to Bundaberg.

"The community can now be assured of continuity of surgical care at their local hospital," Ms Cunningham said.

**Media Contact:**

**Shari Armistead**

**3234 1190**





**Joint media statement  
by  
Health Minister Wendy Edmond  
and  
Minister for Local Government and Planning and Member for Bundaberg  
Nita Cunningham**

8 December 2000

**Scheme boosts staffing at Bundaberg Hospital**

Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Minister for Local Government and Planning and Member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham today announced the appointment of eight graduate health professionals to the Bundaberg Hospital.

Ms Edmond said the new graduates – seven doctors and a radiographer – had been appointed to the hospital under Queensland Health's Rural Scholarship Scheme.

"The scheme is one of a number of initiatives strongly supported by the Government to help fill vacancies in regional, rural and remote hospitals.

"This scheme is a tremendous initiative which not only supports aspiring health professionals but also helps to maintain and improve the health status of rural communities.

"Thanks to the scheme, some 81 graduates will take up vacancies in rural hospitals across Queensland early in the new year."

Ms Edmond said under the scheme Queensland Health financially supports scholarship holders while they complete their full time tertiary studies in return for their accepting placement in non metropolitan communities throughout the State upon graduation.

Mrs Cunningham said Queensland Health Rural Scholarships were available to second and third year students and were not just awarded on academic merit.

"Applicants must exhibit a genuine commitment to the provision of health care for regional, rural and remote Queensland.

"The scholarships are offered annually and are available to students in dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology (clinical masters), occupational therapy, radiography, social work and speech pathology.

"For the first time the appointees this year will include 16 registered nurses, the first to graduate since the scheme was expanded in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce into Nursing Recruitment and Retention," Mrs Cunningham said.

"With such a wide range of scholarships available, Queensland Health is able to provide people in rural communities with access to health services they otherwise might not have had.

"Four specific indigenous scholarships are also offered each year, with first priority given to students in nursing, nutrition, social work and clinical masters psychology," Mrs Cunningham said.

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**Shari Armistead**

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