

Delivering world-class health care for Queensland kids

The Government response to the South East Queensland Paediatric Planning Report

The Bligh Government understands that when a child is sick or injured, parents need to know that help is close by. That's why we are delivering a world-class health system for our kids. No matter where Queenslanders live, we want them to have access to the right health care for their children.

We are already working hard to deliver better health care to South East Queensland kids. At the new Gold and Sunshine Coast hospitals, we have committed to new and expanded services for children, including 10 dedicated emergency department treatment places at each site, as well as a 32 bed paediatric unit and two paediatric intensive care beds.

We have also acted on international evidence and our own review into children's cardiac services, that found children receive the best care from one tertiary level children's hospital. This will enable a concentration of our best specialist expertise in one location.

This month construction began on the \$1.1 billion Queensland Children's Hospital at South Brisbane. It will bring together the services from the Royal Children's and Mater Children's Hospitals, in a single, modern world-class hospital with more beds and improved services.

It will be the cornerstone of child health services for the whole State.

We have always recognised the need for this tertiary hospital to be supported by dedicated children's services across the State.

The Government listened to clinicians when they told us priority needed to be given to planning for a rapidly growing South East Queensland. We conducted a review and our response, the South East Queensland Paediatric Planning Report, is now complete.

The report found a need for:

- a new dedicated children's emergency department at The Prince Charles Hospital
- new or expanded children's services at five key hospitals across SEQ
- greater public awareness that in an emergency, the nearest hospital is the most appropriate place to seek treatment for a child.

In response the Government will commit to:

- 1** Delivering a new, dedicated children's emergency department at The Prince Charles Hospital by 2012. The facility will also include 20 short stay beds and specialist children's outpatient facilities.
- 2** New or expanded children's services at Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture, Redcliffe and Redlands. The progressive roll out of this commitment will begin in 2012, before the Queensland Children's Hospital comes on-line.
- 3** Improving public awareness that the nearest emergency department is the best place to take a seriously ill child.

Public awareness will be raised through a variety of methods, from advertising to direct mail. These methods will also be used to keep families well informed about the changes to services at their local hospitals.

All of these commitments mean that children in South East Queensland can receive the care they need in hospitals closest to where they live.

And with the delivery of the Queensland Children's Hospital, our sickest kids from right across the State will receive the best care from the best doctors.

These are hallmarks of a world-class system and that's good news for Queensland families.



Stephen Robertson MP
Minister for Health