

Question on Notice
No. 339
Asked on 25 February 2016

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK)—

With reference to the Premier's public commitment to the Member for Nicklin to reduce the outsourcing of health services -

Will the Minister outline over the period 1 February 2015 to 1 February 2016 for the Central Queensland HHS (a) the number and total dollar value of contracts with private sector health care providers either cancelled, discontinued or terminated and (b) the category of treatment provided and total number of patients treated and/or episodes of care delivered under the contract outlined in (a)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Callide for his question.

The Government recognises that, in the case of Queensland Health (comprising the Department of Health and the Hospital and Health Services), public health services are provided through a mix of in-house delivered services and partnerships with nongovernment, community and private sector health providers.

With reference to the Premier's commitment to the Member for Nicklin, I can inform the Member that as a Government we will continue to provide health services to Queenslanders in safe, efficient and clinically effective ways that benefit the Queensland community.

In accordance with our commitments, both to the Member for Nicklin and during the course of the last election, the Government has stopped the outsourcing of services provided by Pathology Queensland and all the other business units in the Department of Health. We have made it clear that patient transport services provided by the Queensland Ambulance Service will not be privatised.

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) is being delivered under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Exemplar Health. In line with our election commitments, we are providing soft facilities management and portorage, pathology and radiation oncology services through the public sector.

On 17 September 2015, it was announced that the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service would partner with a private provider to deliver radiation oncology services in Rockhampton.

In January 2016, the Government released a contracting out policy which provides guidance to state entities about the factors and process which need to be considered when making decisions about contracting out government service delivery.