

BRISBANE, 16th MARCH 2005, DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCILS ZONAL ORIENTATION FORUM FOR CHAIRS with District Managers in attendance.

When we first arrived, we were able to mingle with the Minister, the Hon Gordon Nuttall, who was very friendly as was the Director General, Dr Steve Buckland, and Zonal Managers Mr Dan Bergin and Ms Karen Roach. During this time we were able to meet all other attendees (Dms & Chairs) and some ideas flowed.

The Forum was chaired by Ms Sandra Abeya, acting principal liaison officer, public affairs, and Mr Michael Fietchner, policy advisor, office of the Health Minister.

We were welcomed by the Coordinators, who then introduced the Minister who spoke on the way we can be involved in Qld Health's "new way" to give a better deal to all Queenslanders by becoming very committed to the Community & Consumer ideals. He also touched on the importance of the Health Councils, to lead from, and listen to the Community and Consumers.

The D G spoke of the part that the Council can play in Qld Health's future, but was very adamant that Qld Health, and it's D M s were to manage the every-day issues in the Hospitals, and were not looking for direction in management, but for assistance in being the eyes and the ears out in the Community, so that they can be better served. He also said that we are not "Boards" with control, only advisers.

There was much discussion about communications from Qld Health, and between Health Councils, which led to a proposal that a "news letter" would be included in the magazine "Health Matters", to be distributed to all Councillors. Professional Development of Councillors was spoken about, and more issues about Councillors.

I do have available the "power points" presentation printouts and they are available if you wish to look at them, and hopefully Peter or I can answer any questions.

QE11 DM spoke of delegating to other people in the Community with a partnership approach for information giving, thus having more Community involvement. She also spoke about having "coloured posters" of our Council members and placing them in important places, (Doctors surgeries, Council foyers, and all Communities Halls or Meeting places), so that we would become more accessible to the Community, by being recognised if a problem should arise.

Dr Paul Cotton, Chair of Fraser Coast Health District, made his last presentation, as he has resigned as Chair from 16th. It was about Community Engagement, which led on to the Gracehaven Nursing Home, which was a Qld Health Facility but was passed over to private enterprise with much Community involvement, which made it pass over successfully.

Mr Michael Kinnane, Executive Director, Strategic Funding and Investment Branch, spoke on budgets and presented us with "pies" on the amount of funding from each Govt, Of the \$5.13 billion budget that is for this year. Our growth of \$1 billion approx in both Labour and non-labour costs in the past 10 years is because of the explosion of retirees coming to QLD, and they generally use a lot more public medical facilities. I believe that it is up to us to make the Community more aware of the spiralling costs, and perhaps work on more preventative measures if we are going to lessen the strain on the Public Health system. Our area is a magnet for Retirees, as we have a temperate climate, and a fairly flat area in town, and the graph shows a major increase in the next 10 years in Qld, however a graph on our area would show an even higher growth than the state average.

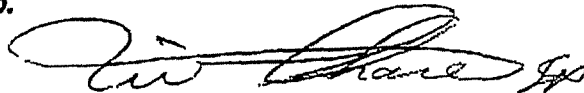
Ms Lyn Hamill spoke on the Integrated Strategy And Performance framework, for which our Hospital has it's own Strategy Map, (which you all have), as well as the Queensland Health one.

Ms Sandra Abeya spoke on us having an achievements register process which will record our service to the Community that will ensure that she and Michael are informed by the DM every 3 months. They have also requested a copy of our confirmed Minutes within 7 days of their confirmation.

Zonal Manager, Mr Dan Bergin was our last speaker and he reiterated the role of the DHC members as an important part of the Health system, however he did go on to speak on governance and safety, planning & Govt priorities (promises from the last election), that were aimed at the DMs more than us.

I was very happy to be amongst my peers on the day, and made more pleasing to have the Peter along with all the other DMs to observe, and no doubt advise us on issues that arose at the Forum.

Whilst I had Michael Fletcheners attention, I asked him to research why our Hospital Foundation cannot get a Deductible Gift Recipient Status which allows all donations over \$2 to be Tax Deductable, like Ipswich has. The Tax Dept do not believe our Foundation to be a Public Benefit Institution, yet we only spend our donations for items for the Bundaberg Health Service District Hospitals. If this is not corrected then I feel that the donations may dry up.



Viv Chase JP Chairman Bundaberg District Health Council.