

30 September 2022



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Hon Yvette D'Ath MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
1 William Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: Satellite Hospitals**

Dear Minister D'Ath

Members of AMA Queensland have advised that Queensland Health is planning to establish satellite hospitals known as 'Minor Injuries and Illness Facilities'.

AMA Queensland supports measures to increase primary care services and reduce the pressure on hospital emergency departments, however, we strongly advocate for these facilities and services to be co-designed with general practitioners and other primary health care providers. This is the only way to ensure their effectiveness, avoid unintended consequences, and guarantee patient safety.

We request information about the plan and relevant workforce, funding and operational details about the facilities, including confirmation that they will be modelled on the Minor Injury and Illness Clinic (MIIC) based at Caloundra Hospital. We note Clinical Excellence Queensland's evaluation of the MIIC documented the following as an important 'lesson learnt':

*Early engagement: to gain support from the clinical community. This is important to ensure continuation of care and readiness of other primary health providers to refer to the service. Key messages that the service is designed to be supportive of existing services, not competitive and the value it provides to patients are important to convey and to ensuring sufficient demand.*

AMA Queensland calls on Queensland Health to:

- immediately engage with AMA Queensland to access GPs and general practice clinics in all locations where the facilities are planned to co-design the model, including fundamental operational aspects such as opening hours, funding arrangements, and service provision;
- commit to the implementation and evaluation of outcome measures for the facilities; and
- ensure the 'lessons learned' from the MIIC are implemented in full in the final design.

It is vital that the planned facilities complement and do not compete with existing primary care services, otherwise they will result in the closure of local general practice clinics and do nothing to reduce ED presentations. Queensland GPs continue to deliver the highest standard of evidence-based health care to their patients and community and must be included in this initiative.

We look forward to receiving your update and are happy to meet with you to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Boulton  
**President**  
**AMA Queensland**

Dr Brett Dale  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AMA Queensland**