

14 August 2023

The Hon Shannon Fentiman MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services  
Minister for Women

[ama.com.au/qld](http://ama.com.au/qld)

88 L'Estrange Terrace  
Kelvin Grove 4059

PO Box 123  
Red Hill 4059

Ph: (07) 3872 2222  
Fax: (07) 3856 4727

[amaq@amaq.com.au](mailto:amaq@amaq.com.au)

ACN: 009 660 280  
ABN: 17 009 660 280

**Subject: Robina Hospital emergency department expansion**

Dear Minister

AMA Queensland members have raised concerns about the scheduled expansion of Robina Hospital's emergency department (ED) and Transfer Unit. In particular, doctors have reported that:

- staff were advised the ED expansion project was originally due for completion in mid-2023 but has been delayed until end 2023 or early 2024;
- the rebuild of the Robina Transfer Unit has not commenced;
- the original announcement was for an expanded ED including an additional 20 'treatment spaces', however, the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan describes it as the 'Robina Hospital Transit Lounge Expansion';
- there has been no associated increase to Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's (GC HHS) operational budget to ensure it can staff and operate the expanded ED; and
- staff believe the expanded ED will not be opened when completed but will instead be used for the Robina Transfer Unit which is contrary to the Government's original announcements.

AMA Queensland notes the Queensland 2023-24 Budget Papers state:

- the build will be completed in the 2023-24 financial year and describe the project as 'the 20-space emergency department expansion at Robina Hospital';
- the budgeted summary for staffing includes an increase of 222 FTEs at GC HHS from 9343 in 2022-23 to 9565 in 2023-24; and
- of the \$508.7M allocated in 2023-24 from the \$2.8B Funding Uplift, \$115.1M was allocated to 'address demand and cost pressures' and 'support a suite of programs and initiatives targeting... addressing pressures on emergency departments'.

We seek your clarification of the issues identified at Robina Hospital as set out above, particularly confirmation that the expanded ED will be opened and not used as a transit lounge or to accommodate the Transfer Unit; updated timeframes for completion; and whether funding has been allocated to staff and operate the services once complete.

If you would like to meet to discuss these issues further, please contact [REDACTED] via email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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

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

Copied to:

Mr Ron Calvert, Chief Executive, Gold Coast University Hospital, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]