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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: Gladstone Hospital's Maternity Unit Bypass

Dear Minister D'Ath

AMA Queensland is alarmed by Queensland Health's recent decision to place Gladstone Hospital's Maternity Unit on bypass. This threatens the health and safety of the region's women and babies as mothers must now drive hours to the nearest available maternity service. It is inevitable some will be forced to give birth on the side of the road.

The situation is made more alarming by the fact the Queensland Government was warned nearly four years ago of the threat to the region's maternity services by the National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NASOG) following the closure of Gladstone Mater Hospital's private maternity unit.

Unfortunately, Gladstone will not be the only region where maternity services close if urgent action is not taken.

AMA Queensland calls on the Queensland Government to immediately prioritise the future of obstetric care by contacting the Commonwealth Government and the profession to develop a solution. We are happy to work with Queensland Health to prevent the situation from worsening and ensure further private obstetric closures do not overwhelm the public sector.

We welcome an opportunity to contribute to a solution for this critical health issue with you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
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