SHANE KNUTH
Katter's Australian Party
Member for Hill

MEDIA RELEASE

Member for Hill Shane Knuth sought reassurance from the State Minister for Health to ensure that regional hospitals and health clinics are well equipped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After receiving concerned calls from constituents, Mr Knuth said he had been informed that hospitals in smaller regional centres would not be provided with adequate resources to battle a coronavirus outbreak in comparison to major centres.

He thought it was time to stand up and get a direct answer from the Health Minister in particular for those in rural and regional communities that have a large aging population.

Mr Knuth said he wanted to ensure that regional and remote areas were not forgotten when it came to resourcing including ventilators and masks as the virus attacks the respiratory system.

"My question without notice to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services was that I had received information that hospitals in smaller regional centres will not be provided with adequate resources to battle a coronavirus outbreak in comparison to major centres," Mr Knuth said.

"I asked the minister, considering regional communities have a large ageing population, will the minister commit to ensuring these hospitals are fully resourced to the same level as those in major centres?"

Mr Knuth said he wanted the ensures that local hospitals and health clinics would have sufficient resources to combat the COVID- 19 epidemic.

"I want to keep the pressure on the government to ensure that regional Queensland isn't left out," he said.

"We cannot afford to downplay smaller hospitals. Efficiently resourced local clinics and hospitals means that the elderly and sick will not have to travel further when they can access health care in their own local health facilities.

"In the Hill electorate there are a number of smaller communities that will be relying on their health clinics and doctors in this time of need.

"I encourage everyone to look after each other in the coming weeks."

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