




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Termination of Pregnancy

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. In response to a question from the member for Noosa on 10 March 2021 when asked about termination statistics, I responded in relation to public and private sector statistics, which are in reference to data provided by the Department of Health on admissions to public and private facilities for a termination. It appears that there might be a misunderstanding in relation to the statistics I was quoting. By way of clarification, I wish to advise the House that I was referring only to statistics held by the Department of Health in relation to admitted patients to public or private facilities. I am advised that it does not include, because the Department of Health has no visibility over, the number of medical terminations of pregnancy that may be provided in a primary care setting as there is no Medicare item number for a termination of pregnancy.

In addition, the Department of Health does not have visibility of the figures published by the federal government regarding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in relation to MS-2 Step, which is information which has been quoted by some in this chamber. As such, the figures I used in my response to the member for Noosa were in relation to public and private sector admissions and there was no intention on my part to cause confusion or mislead members in my response.

I further wish to advise that it is not a simple exercise to quantify termination of pregnancy statistics in Queensland, as I have been advised that some prescribers are based in Queensland but prescribe medication to women across the country, therefore skewing the data. I would encourage all members to be careful when interpreting or using the data available.