

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 363**

**Asked on 3 April 2025**

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the Queensland Drug Warning Clinical Alert, titled ‘New nitazene (strong opioid) Protodesnitazene detected’ and dated March 2025, which notes that ‘a new nitazene called Protodesnitazene has been detected in Queensland in a toxicology sample and in a brown, chalky powder’—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the toxicology sample was related to a hospital presentation, (b) if the toxicology sample was part of a coronial inquest related to a death, (c) if yes to (a) or (b), how long did it take the government to identify Protodesnitazene and issue the clinical alert from the time of the death or hospital presentation occurring, (d) how many deaths or hospital presentations have been attributed to nitazene toxicity in Queensland over the past five years and (e) what measures are in place to detect and ensure the public is informed of dangerous substances, such as nitazenes, in a timely manner?

### **ANSWER**

I am advised of the following:

(a) and (b) The toxicology sample relates to a coronial matter.

(c) Queensland Health issued the warning on 25 March 2025.

(d) Reasons for hospital admissions are identified using the ICD10-AM coding classification, which is the standard method of recording admitted patient morbidity. The ICD10-AM classification does not contain the level of detail necessary to identify this particular drug.

(e) Queensland Health has an interim early warning system and is working with internal and external key stakeholders to formalise this system.