

Question on Notice
No. 1385
Asked on 2 November 2006

MR DICKSON asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

- (1) What is the number of people waiting for public health dental treatment broken down by (a) health district, (b) public hospital/other health services and (c) type of dental service provided?
- (2) What is the waiting time list to see a public health dentist or dental technician broken down by (a) health district and (b) public hospital/other health services?
- (3) What preventative measures are being taken to reduce the demand for public sector dental services?

ANSWER:

Queensland continues to provide the most comprehensive public dental service in Australia for adults and school aged children.

In 2006-07, the State Government will spend \$137.7 million to provide free public dental services for Queenslanders.

During 2005-06, approximately 555,000 occasions of service were provided to adult dental patients at a cost of \$90.5 million. The budget for 2006-7 is \$94.1 million.

Additionally, during 2005-06 approximately 640,000 occasions of service were provided to children through School Oral Health Services at a cost of \$41.9 million. The budget for 2006-07 is \$43.6 million.

This is an excellent result in an environment of oral health workforce shortages in Queensland and Australia.

- (1)&(2) Attached is a table which details the number of people waiting for unspecified care at the end of October 2006 by Health Service District and Clinic. This table includes waiting times for general care. Emergency dental treatment is provided within 24 hours.
- (3) Preventative treatment is provided as part of the oral health care given to eligible child and adult patients throughout Queensland, in addition to hygienist advice and care.

Queensland Health collaborated with Education Queensland to establish and implement the Smart Choices program to reduce the availability of high fat/high sugar foods in school tuckshops.

Queensland Health has also developed a range of oral health promotion information, education and training tools available for use by health professionals, carers of young children, teachers and the general community. Examples of current programs are:

- the Happy Teeth program - Happy Teeth is a health promoting schools program which provides child care centre staff with the tools to incorporate oral health into the centres curriculum through classroom lessons, information home to parents and learning through action;
- Crocodile Smiles is an Indigenous community engagement program that was developed by the Cairns District Oral Health Service. The program focuses on the use of community engagement principles to promote the incorporation of oral health issues into general community health. The Cairns Health Service District is currently working on the final evaluation of the program with the aim of expanding the program for use in other parts of the State;
- water fluoridation resources - a series of four water fluoridation resources have been developed and made available to health professionals, councils, schools, parents and the general community in an effort to increase the community's awareness and knowledge of water fluoridation and the oral health benefits of water fluoridation programs.

Queensland Health hosted the National Oral Health Promotion Steering Group in 2006. The role of the National Oral Health Promotion Steering Group is to facilitate Australian and New Zealand collaboration in oral health promotion for the progression of Action Areas related to health promotion within the National Oral Health Plan. Through this coordinated approach the steering group will work towards enhancing interstate resource sharing, facilitate health promotion strategic direction setting and identify and communicate health promotion good practice in the area of oral health.

Attachment

Health Service District	Clinic	Number of people waiting at end of October	Average waiting time (months) for people receiving dental treatment from the waiting list (01/11/05 – 31/10/06) (Not including emergencies)	Occasions of Service for 12 month period (01/11/05 – 31/10/06)
Northern Area				
Bowen	Total	424		
	Ayr	2		366
	Ayr – Travel Team	1		910
	Bowen	339	50	1,485
	Bowen – Travel team	1		21
	Collinsville	81	46	186
Cairns	Total	3,310		
	Cairns	1,662	25	8,723
	Edmonton	897	18	5,623
	Georgetown	3	0	289
	Mossman	205	14	500
	Smithfield	543	16	5,558
Charters Towers	Total	46		
	Charters Towers	46	4	2,152
Innisfail	Total	681		
	Cardwell	1		209
	Innisfail	422	23	1,623
	Tully	258	16	1,560
Mackay	Total	3,811		
	Clermont	41	3	115
	Clermont - Travel Team	2		231
	Mackay	3,387	31	11,611
	Moranbah	8	1	44
	Proserpine	357	25	1,577
	Proserpine – Travel team	5		722
	Sarina	11	20	90
Mt Isa	Total	77		
	Burketown	1		12
	Camooweal	3		27
	Cloncury	2	0	229
	Mt Isa	71	2	2354
Tablelands	Total	1,152		
	Atherton	541	80	2050
	Chillagoe	7		28
	Mareeba	603	49	1461
	Mareeba – Travel	1		781

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	Team			
Torres	Total	17		
	Badi Island	3	0	396
	Bamaga	8	59	976
	Bamaga – Travel Team	1	0	17
	Mer Island	1	3	394
	Outer Island	1		0
	Thursday Island	3	43	2,880
Townsville	Total	1,645		
	Ingham	571	44	3,070
	Kirwan	448	11	12,334
	North Ward	131	45	8,331
	Old Townsville Clinic	495	66	0
Central Area				
Banana		268		
	Baralaba	13	92	0
	Biloela	163	23	1,581
	Moura	40	44	46
	Theodore	52	24	1
Bundaberg	Total	6,347		
	Bundaberg	5,820	64	13,889
	Childers	527	64	1,262
Central Highlands	Total	586		
	Blackwater	54	22	38
	Emerald	498	23	894
	Springsure	34	18	46
Central West	Total	681		
	Aramac	12	2	59
	Barcaldine	163	7	302
	Blackall	247	9	301
	Longreach	182	10	459
	Muttaburra	19	1	69
	Winton	58	9	159
Fraser Coast	Total	6,780		
	Hervey Bay – Starting Early	55	18	2
	Hervey Bay	3,762	52	13,202
	Maryborough	2,890	52	9,999
	Maryborough – Starting Early	73	20	0

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Gladstone	Total	2,457		
	Gladstone	2,457	44	5,993
Gympie	Total	1,754		
	Gympie	1,754	78	9,125
North Burnett	Total	157		
	Eidsvold	17	21	131
	Gayndah	49	15	1,021
	Monto	72	44	729
	Munduberra	19	8	511
Redcliffe-Caboolture	Total	4,817		
	Caboolture	2,924	53	15,066
	Clontarf	1		1,071
	Redcliffe	1,892	31	15,434
Rockhampton	Total	6,085		
	Canning St	3,315	34	14,028
	Mercer Street	1		0
	Mt Morgan	392	42	847
	Yeppoon	2,377	43	5,482
Royal Brisbane And Women's Hospital	Total	9,500		
	Brisbane Dental Hospital	1,180	21	21,678
	BDH - Crown & Bridge	1		0
	BDH - Prosthetics	2		0
	Children's Oral Health Service	1	1	0
	Indooroopilly	352	21	3,269
	Nundah	381	15	3,793
	Pine River	3,559	58	8,307
	Sandgate	1,930	39	9,437
	Stafford	2,094	26	15,367
South Burnett	Total	1,864		
	Kingaroy	1,864	52	7,223
Sunshine Coast	Total	6,048		
	Caloundra	1,396	70	9,493
	Kawana	1,518	65	9,073
	Nambour	1,703	64	10,751
	Noosa	1,431	53	5,146

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Southern Area				
Bayside		1,684	107	
	Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit	33	15	1,582
	Redlands	1,121	44	7,561
	Wynnum	530	35	9,576
Charleville	Total	342		
	Augathella	27		32
	Charleville	220		26
	Cunnamulla	78	37	521
	Dental Van	1		0
	Morven	13		24
	Thargomindah	3		83
Gold Coast	Total	6,961		
	Nerang	1,134	59	8,721
	Palm Beach	1,541	63	9,497
	Robina	421	41	4,015
	Runway Bay	1,976	59	9,488
	Southport Emergency	12	30	0
	Southport	1,877	64	13,625
Logan	Total	14,713		
	Beaudesert	671	43	3,354
	Beenleigh	5,801	82	6,486
	Kingston	22		7,854
	Logan	8,194	66	14,827
	Logan Central	25	62	4,185
Northern Downs	Total	1,634		
	Chinchilla	347	27	806
	Dalby	797	30	2,775
	Jandowae	24		121
	Miles	210	21	356
	Tara	256	22	364
QE11	Total	5,362		
	Inala	1,748	44	9,838
	QEII	1,988	37	16,776
	South Brisbane Dental Hospital	1,509	50	18,536
	Yeronga Adult	117	14	4,500
Roma	Total	136		
	Injune	14		6
	Mitchell	22		7

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	Roma	96	2	1,197
	St George	1		1,472
	Surat	3		70
Southern Downs	Total	1,724		
	Goondwindi	122	21	305
	Inglewood	106	13	730
	Stanthorpe	622	31	1,679
	Warwick	874	29	3,348
Toowoomba	Total	4,859		
	Gatton	477	19	2,083
	Toowoomba East	2		0
	Toowoomba North	11	0	4,870
	Toowoomba Orthodontist	1	1	0
	Toowoomba Prosthetics	5		0
	Toowoomba	4,363	19	19,023
West Moreton	Total	885		
	Boonah	27	7	1,407
	Collingwood Park	36	10	3,352
	Esk	192	24	1,625
	Ipswich	615	33	23,756
	Laidley	15	14	4,485

Notes: Where no client has been appointed from the list in October, no average waiting time is recorded.