

Question on Notice
No. 1505
Asked on 29 November 2006

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

QUESTION:

- (1) Will he supply the dental waiting lists for Bundaberg Base Hospital and the time frames involved?
- (2) What are the short term strategies and long term strategies to reduce these list time frames?

ANSWER:

- (1) During the last 12 months there has been a total of 13,889 free occasions of service to public dental patients in Bundaberg. The current waiting time for general care patients at the Bundaberg Base Hospital Dental Clinic is 64 months with 5,820 people waiting. Emergency patients are triaged and the most urgent are seen within 24 hours with the others as soon as possible in the daily emergency sessions.
- (2) The Bundaberg Oral Health Service has successfully recruited a full complement of dentists from January 2007 and this will enable treatment offered to be maximised. However, due to the huge demand from the Bundaberg area for emergency and general care, it will take some time to see significant reductions in waiting times. The Bundaberg Health Service District has recognised the need to increase oral health services in the District and a new, larger dental clinic is currently the number one priority on its Asset Strategic Plan, which feeds into statewide capital works planning.