

**Question on Notice
No. 619
Asked on 21 April 2006**

MRS PRATT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to dental health in the Nanango Electorate—

- (1) Where do all dental clinics in the Nanango Electorate stand relative to other clinics state-wide in regards to patient waiting times?
- (2) What is the current dental health staffing level in comparison to years back to 2000?
- (3) In comparison to previous years to 2000, how many hours per day are the clinics operating?
- (4) What is the average number of patients treated each day per dentist?

ANSWER:

Dental health in the Nanango Electorate is serviced by two clinics, Kingaroy Dental Clinic and Esk Dental Clinic.

- (1) Waiting times for services in Queensland Health dental clinics vary depending on demand and staffing levels. Across the state patients who have received general dental care in the year to date have waited on average 132 weeks. Patients at Kingaroy have waited 213 weeks on average, while patients at Esk have waited 117 weeks on average.
- (2) Dental Health Staffing Level:
 - there are three fulltime equivalent (FTE) dentists employed at Kingaroy. This has been the case since 2000; and
 - as at 8 May 2006 there are 0.8 FTE dentists employed at Esk Dental Clinic (an increase from 0.6 FTE prior to this date). In 2000 there was 1.0 FTE dentist at Esk. From 2001 to 2005 there were generally 0.4 FTE dentists with up to 0.6 FTE at times.
- (3) The Kingaroy Dental Clinic is open for 9.25 hours per day from 7.45am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday. These times have been in place for the period from 2000.

The Esk Dental Clinic is open for 5.5 hours, three days a week. From 8 May 2006 the clinic will be open four days per week. In 2000 the Esk clinic operated five days per week. This reduced in line with staffing levels in subsequent years.

- (4) The average number of patients each dentist sees each day varies depending on the complexity of each patient's condition and the length of appointments. On average each dentist at Kingaroy sees around 11 patients per day while at Esk the average is around 14.