

Question on Notice
No. 295
Asked on 6 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to diagnostic surgical equipment and procedures in each hospital in the Nanango Electorate—

- (1) What equipment ie. dialysis machines, ECG, stress monitors etc are located in each hospital?
- (2) How many procedures per machine located at each hospital are performed each day?
- (3) Why is equipment unable to be used in appropriate timeframes to prevent patients from being forced to access services at out of district major hospitals?

ANSWER:

The Nanango Electorate crosses two Queensland Health Service Districts i.e. Northside and West Moreton South Burnett. The answers detailed below have been compiled from information provided by the two districts in respect of Electorate facilities.

Northside Health Service District

Kilcoy Hospital has one ECG machine which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no waiting period for the use of this machine as it is on-site and there is an average of approximately 10 ECG's performed per week.

West Moreton South Burnett Health Service District

There are a total of eight ECG machines located in hospitals in the South Burnett region. These machines are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no waiting period for use of these machines and they are used on site as required with between 2-10 ECG's performed on each machine daily. There are two machines each at Murgon, Cherbourg and Kingaroy and one machine at both Wondai and Nanango.

There is also one ECG machine at Esk Hospital and this machine averages six patients per week. Esk Hospital also has a Spirometry machine which is used to assess lung function and this machine is used on average twice a week.

Stress testing is available at Kingaroy where there is one set of equipment. Four appointments are available weekly and currently there is only a two week waiting list with all emergency referrals booked in as priority. Booked appointments are available by referral only from General Practitioners and other District medical officers.

There is a self care dialysis unit available at Cherbourg. This unit is available for all dialysis treatment where in-centre self-care dialysis is required. However, there have been no patients eligible for this unit at this stage. For other dialysis services, clients are referred to the nearest facility eg Toowoomba, Nambour or Brisbane.

Esk Hospital is a primary health care facility and patients who require higher level care must be transferred to secondary or tertiary facilities.