

Question on Notice
No. 1619
Asked on 30 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide details of Queensland Health costs in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (year to date) for outsourced elective surgery and other medical procedures (reported separately) for each public hospital and/or district including (a) the type and number of elective surgery and/or medical procedures, (b) the number of patients referred and treated and (c) other district contracts with private hospitals including the number of patients treated and the cost of the treatments?

ANSWER:

- (a)-(b) For 2007-08 and 2008-09, the Government's Surgery Connect program has facilitated the treatment of 'long wait' elective surgery patients through partnerships with the private sector. To date over 8,470 patients have been referred to the program with 5,885 patients having received treatment. The remainder of patients will be treated over the next few months once pre-operative assessments have been completed and booking processes have been finalised.
- (c) Additional to the Surgery Connect Program, there are a number of circumstances whereby districts contract with the private sector for the provision of services to public patients. This is particularly true in some regional centres where services may only be available within the private sector. There is also evidence to suggest that patients recover better by receiving treatment closer to where they live. In this regard it is not only more cost efficient for Queensland Health to contract these services locally due to savings in patient transit, accommodation and length of hospital stay, but there are also added benefits for patients and the local community.

Also there are other types of services that are provided by a limited and highly specialised medical workforce and mainly within the private sector.