

**Question on Notice
No. 497
Asked on 16 April 2008**

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide the following statistics for hospitals at Monto, Eidsvold, Munduberra, Gayndah and Biggenden for the last three years, the (a) average bed occupancy rate, (b) total number of admissions, (c) average stay length, (d) total number of medical evacuations to other hospitals and (e) total number of patients returned from other hospitals for re-admission?

ANSWER:

Statistics for Monto, Eidsvold, Munduberra, Gayndah and Biggenden Hospitals are as follows:

January 2005-December 2005	Monto	Gayndah	Biggenden	Eidsvold	Munduberra
Average bed occupancy rate	50.0%	26.5%	61.5%	65.8%	82.6%
Total number of admissions	438	412	404	231	298
Average stay length	7.97	3.96	9.68	11.27	17.82
Total number of patient transfers to other hospitals	28	68	61	35	71
Total number of patients returned from other hospitals for readmission	9	26	25	6	14

January 2006-December 2006	Monto	Gayndah	Biggenden	Eidsvold	Munduberra
Average bed occupancy rate	36.5%	26.5%	69.4%	63.5%	80.0%
Total number of admissions	572	365	346	235	309
Average stay length	4.38	4.51	12.97	10.48	16.63
Total number of patient transfers to other hospitals	77	71	49	47	74
Total number of patients returned from other hospitals for readmission	15	37	21	8	19

January 2007-December 2007	Monto	Gayndah	Biggenden	Eidsvold	Munduberra
Average bed occupancy rate	40.4%	24.5%	76.9%	50.2%	80.9%
Total number of admissions	687	483	344	238	93
Average stay length	4.05	2.90	14.97	8.36	17.55
Total number of patient transfers to other hospitals	101	106	58	35	67
Total number of patients returned from other hospitals for readmission	26	32	37	8	21

There are several reasons why patients require a longer length of stay or are transferred to other facilities, including:

- The average age of patients transferred back to North Burnett facilities for the 2007 calendar year is as follows:
 - Monto: 57 years;
 - Gayndah: 64 years;
 - Biggenden: 65 years;
 - Eidsvold: 84 years; and
 - Mundubbera: 74 years.

As the majority of these patients are older, many have co-morbidities in addition to their primary diagnosis, i.e. diabetes complicated by cellulitis, requiring a longer length of stay to manage their care;

- In a rural setting, facilities offer respite care when carers have other commitments, i.e. medical procedures, etc (can equate to long term respite care, i.e. two weeks);
- A contributor to higher length of stay in rural areas is the access to non-government community services to support clients in their home, i.e. allied health services, home nursing, etc; and
- The creation of additional Multipurpose Health Services (MPHS) at Biggenden and Eidsvold, supporting the existing service at Mundubbera, provides an alternative to clients relocating to another centre to access nursing home type accommodation. Mundubbera MPHS (12 places) is achieving 95% occupancy this financial year, with Biggenden (11 places) and Eidsvold (five places) maintaining between 60-80% for the same period. Patients can access this care once their acute phase of care is complete.