

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1832**  
**Asked on 24 November 2009**

MR McARDLE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number and elective surgery category (reported separately) of long wait patients who have waited longer than (a) five years, (b) four years, (c) three years, (d) two years and (e) one year for their elective surgery?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his interest in the Deputy Premier's waiting list reduction campaign.

As the Member knows, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health recently flagged his determination to tackle long-waits for elective surgery as a key priority for his term as Health Minister.

It is heartening that the Member for Caloundra is following the lead of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health.

Queensland leads Australia in our elective surgery waiting list performance. Our median wait times for elective surgery are the shortest in the country.

But there is always more to do. Premier Bligh and Deputy Premier Lucas are determined to cut wait times further, and ensure that Queenslanders wait no longer than absolutely necessary for non-emergency surgery.

To deliver even shorter wait times, the Government has committed an additional \$110 million for Surgery Connect over the next three years, which includes an additional \$90 million announced during the 2009 State Election, to provide an additional 20,000 elective operations for these 'long wait' patients.

The numbers of patients who have waited for 1-2 years, 2-3 years, 3-4 years, 4-5 years and longer than 5 years respectively for each category are: 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 for category 1 (no such patients have been waiting longer than one year); 1430, 285, 185, 96 and 183 for category 3 (noting that the overall number of category 3 patients waiting more than a year has declined by nearly 450 patients) and category 2 310, 83, 21, 4 and 0.

The number of patients overall who have waited more than a year has been reduced by 10%.

The number of patients waiting more than 5 years has been reduced by 55% in one year.

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Health has flagged a major initiative in 2010 to tackle long-waits for surgery. Queensland already has the best elective surgery wait time performance in the nation, according to the Australian Government, and we are committed to doing even better.