

Question on Notice
No. 124
Asked on 5 March 2014

MR MINNIKIN asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the benefits of the reduction in dental waiting lists for the Chatsworth Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Chatsworth for his question.

I am pleased to advise that the Government has made significant improvements in the waiting lists for public oral health services for people who live in the Chatsworth Electorate, namely, the suburbs of Belmont, Capalaba West, Carina Heights, Carindale, Chandler, Gumdale, Ransome, Tingalpa and Wakerley.

As at 28 February 2014, there were a total of 299 people who live in the Chatsworth Electorate on the general oral health waiting list compared to 361 people as at 28 February 2013. Most significant however, is that the number of people on the long wait list, or those waiting for longer than two years has decreased from 150 on 28 February 2013, down to zero as at 28 February 2014. I am also pleased to advise that the average time in days waiting fell from 705 to 144 days over this period.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise of the improvements in dental waiting lists, not just in the electorate of Chatsworth, but across the whole of Metro South Health. From 28 February 2013 to 28 February 2014, there was a decrease in the number of people in Metro South Health on the long wait list from 11,213 to zero and a decrease in the average time in days waiting from 935 to 136.

This is evidence not only of Metro South Health's commitment to increase oral health services to its community, but of the Government's commitment to improving oral health services for all Queenslanders.

In addition, statewide in February 2013 there were 112,000 people waiting for a check-up on public dental waiting lists. By February 2014, this was nearly halved, down to 62,000 and the number of people waiting longer than two years fell by 93% to 4,172.