

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 126**  
**Asked on 5 March 2014**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of patients in the Kallangur Electorate that have benefited from the shortened dental waiting list so far?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Kallangur 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 Kallangur Electorate.

There are several public dental clinics located throughout the Metro North Hospital and Health Service that provide dental care for Kallangur constituents, but in particular Pine Rivers, Redcliffe and Caboolture dental clinics. Dental waiting lists for a general check up in these areas have reduced significantly over the last 12 months.

Between February 2013 and February 2014: the number of people waiting on the general care list at Pine Rivers reduced from 1,937 to 1,244; at Redcliffe from 4,495 to 1,511; and at Caboolture from 4,671 to 2,419. Twelve months ago there were 4,165 people waiting longer than five years for a general check up across these clinics, whereas at the end of February this year, there were no patients waiting more than two years.

While many Kallangur waiting list patients would have been treated at one of these clinics, Metro North Hospital and Health Service has also partnered with a number of private dental practices in the region. During the 12 months to the end of February this year, 508 Kallangur constituents – that is, eligible residents from the suburbs of Whiteside, Kurwongbah, Dakabin, Kallangur, Petrie and Murrumba Downs - completed their general dental care with a private dentist.

Furthermore, Kallangur residents have benefited through the issue of vouchers for private emergency dental care during this period, which has reduced some of the day to day pressures on these public dental clinics, allowing oral health staff more time to focus on preventive and restorative treatment for waiting list patients.

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.