

Question on Notice
No. 178
Asked on 18 March 2014

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

QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bulimba 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 Bulimba electorate, namely the suburbs of Bulimba, Balmoral, Cannon Hill, Carina, Hawthorne, Morningside, Murarrie, Norman Park and Seven Hills.

As at 31 March 2014, there were a total of 355 people who live in the Bulimba electorate on the general oral health waiting list compared to 516 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 166 on 28 February 2013, down to zero as at 31 March 2014. I am also pleased to advise that the average time in days waiting fell from 613 to 154 days over this period.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise of improvements in dental waiting lists, not just in the electorate of Bulimba, but across the whole of Metro South Health. From 28 February 2013 to 31 March 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 141.

In addition, statewide in February 2013 there were 112,000 people waiting for a check-up on public dental waiting lists. By March 2014, this was nearly halved, down to 62,000 and the number of people waiting longer than two years fell by 97% to 1,784.

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.