

Question on Notice
No. 592
Asked on 7 August 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how services at Ipswich Hospital have improved in the following areas (a) midwifery, (b) emergency department services, (c) ambulance bypass and (d) surgical waiting times?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Ipswich for his question.

I am pleased to inform the Honourable Member for Ipswich of improved performance across midwifery services, emergency department services, ambulance bypass and surgical waiting times at the Ipswich Hospital. For access to emergency department and surgical waiting times, Ipswich Hospital is amongst the highest performing both in the State, and nationally.

Specifically, I have been advised of the following in relation to Ipswich Hospital:

- (a) In the 2010-11 financial year, 2,690 birthing services were provided. In 2013-14, there were 2,931 birthing services provided, an increase of 8.3% from 2010-11.
- (b) Ipswich Hospital, along with the Mater Adults Hospital, was named in May 2014 by the National Health Performance Authority as the best performing Emergency Departments within its peer group in Australia. For the month of July 2014, 83% of patients were seen within four hours of arriving at the Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department.
- (c) With the implementation of the recommendations from the Metropolitan Emergency Department Access Initiative from July 2012, all Emergency Departments have re-engineered the way emergency care is provided. This is evident by the improved performance at Ipswich Hospital, where prior to November 2012, 30% of patients were required to bypass Ipswich Hospital. Since November 2012, there have been three occasions where Ipswich Hospital has needed increased support from the Queensland Ambulance Service and other metropolitan hospitals to ensure all patients are transferred from an Ambulance to an Emergency Department within the 30 minute target.
- (d) Elective surgery wait times have reduced substantially at the Ipswich Hospital. Between July 2013 and June 2014, the total number of people waiting for elective surgery has reduced from 2,847 to 1,861. In July 2013, there were 478 people waiting longer than the clinically recommended timeframe. As at June 2014, there were 17 patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended timeframe.

These reduced waiting times and access to care across midwifery, emergency care and elective surgery are a credit to West Moreton Hospital and Health Service.