

Question on Notice
No. 74
Asked on 15 February 2017

MR MCARDLE asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK) –

With reference to the specialist outpatient department at Caboolture Hospital—

Will the Minister advise the number of category 1, category 2 and category 3 patients waiting longer than clinically recommended times to see a specialist in relation to (a) cardiology, (b) endocrinology, (c) gastroenterology, (d) non subspecialty medicine, (e) non subspecialty surgery, (f) gynaecology, (g) maintenance care, (h) obstetrics, (i) respiratory medicine or (j) rheumatology services, as at 30 June 2016, 31 December 2016 and to the date of the answer to this question with each service, category and date reported separately?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his question.

On coming to office, the Palaszczuk Government announced an investment of \$361.2 million over four years to address the list of those waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment. In February 2015, the number of people on this ‘waiting list for the waiting list’ was 104,114. As at 1 May this year, the number had fallen to 50,033 – despite an annual increase in referrals of almost 10%.

I am advised by the Metro North Hospital and Health Service (the HHS) that concerted efforts to reduce long waits at Caboolture Hospital are underway. Based on the anticipated results of these initiatives, by 30 June 2017 I wish to advise the following:

Service	Category	Long Waits										
		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017
		1/1 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/2 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6	30/6 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6
Cardiology	Category 1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
	Category 2	55	91	119	64	64	1	10	0	15	77	13
	Category 3	0	0	0	1	27	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Total	55	91	120	66	91	1	10	1	16	80	14
Endocrinology	Category 1	<i>No Specialist Outpatient services for endocrinology were offered at Caboolture Hospital during these periods</i>								22	77	13
	Category 2									21	39	14
	Category 3									0	1	0
	Total									43	117	27
Gastroenterology	Category 1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	3	6	6
	Category 2	281	287	381	400	503	67	120	95	27	105	165
	Category 3	431	502	679	728	497	237	100	27	0	0	0
	Total	712	789	1062	1128	1001	304	220	123	30	111	171
Non – Subspecialist Medicine	Category 1	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0
	Category 2	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	8	0
	Category 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	2	4	1	1	3	0	1	4	1	8	1

Service	Category	Long Waits										
		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017
		1/1 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/2 – 30/6	1/7 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6	30/6 – 31/12	1/1 – 30/6
Non-Subspecialist Surgery	Category 1	2	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	2
	Category 2	3	4	8	38	145	46	14	2	4	27	5
	Category 3	0	0	0	1	23	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	5	4	10	40	169	52	14	2	4	29	7
Gynaecology	Category 1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Category 2	39	21	12	15	17	2	17	5	2	0	5
	Category 3	10	8	0	1	3	75	36	3	0	0	0
	Total	50	29	12	16	20	77	53	8	3	1	5
Maintenance Care		<i>No Specialist Outpatient services for "Maintenance care" are offered at Caboolture Hospital</i>										
Obstetrics		<i>Standard Outpatient categorisation is inappropriate for Obstetric practice. However all patients are seen within clinically appropriate timeframes</i>										
Respiratory	Category 1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	5
	Category 2	1	1	13	11	12	0	12	15	0	14	1
	Category 3	0	1	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	5	0
	Total	1	3	17	14	17	0	12	15	6	26	6
Rheumatology	Category 1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
	Category 2	66	71	114	76	19	0	1	17	66	68	27
	Category 3	28	30	30	25	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
	Total	95	102	144	101	19	0	1	17	66	78	27

While the performance in most areas is satisfactory, the HHS has advised that significant pressures still exist in the area of Gastroenterology. Efforts to reduce long waits in Gastroenterology have been frustrated by, (a) a major increase in the number of new referrals received, and (b) delays in recruitment and then an unexpected resignation of a second specialist gastroenterologist for this service. However, recruitment of a replacement is well advanced and a new specialist is expected to commence early in the 2017-18 financial year.