

Question on Notice

No. 1123

Asked on 5 September 2018

MR J KELLY asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide an update on what Queensland Health is doing to reduce the incidence of stroke?

ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to promoting and supporting excellence in stroke care for all Queenslanders, and strives to support the development of initiatives that focus on enabling the provision of best practice stroke care across the state.

High quality stroke care and access to stroke units is a key commitment for the Palaszczuk Government, in the face of stroke being a complex and challenging illness that has a significant impact on individuals, carers and the wider community.

Queensland Health operates 21 Acute Stroke Units across 11 Hospital and Health Services, providing significant access to stroke care. Access to a stroke unit remains the most powerful intervention for acute stroke, and is the foundation of Queensland Health's Statewide Stroke Clinical Network's key priorities.

The Statewide Stroke Clinical Network will continue to work with all sites to drive quality improvement activities across the state for the purpose of delivering quality, evidence-based care.

The Statewide Stroke Clinical Network is currently supporting hospitals with quality assurance processes, and to align their practice to the Stroke Foundation's Stroke Clinical Guidelines across the continuum of hyper-acute care, acute care, post-acute care (including rehabilitation) and community support and prevention activities.

The Statewide Stroke Clinical Network also works collaboratively with the Stroke Foundation on several initiatives to improve best practice stroke care in Queensland including:

- the Stroke Foundation's Know your Numbers blood pressure management program;
- the StrokeLink clinician-based education and quality improvement program;
- the Face Arms Speech and Time (FAST) screening tool;
- the StrokeConnect program for stroke survivors and their families and;
- the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR) project.

The Know your Numbers program involves providing support to people at high risk of type 2 diabetes, stroke and heart disease to make healthy lifestyle changes, particularly around the importance of having a regular blood pressure check. Eligible

participants can also enrol in the My Health for Life program led by Diabetes Queensland.

StrokeConnect provides stroke survivors and carers with access to high quality information, advice from qualified health professionals, connect with relevant primary health services, and peer support. This valuable service is available at hospitals across Queensland with a Stroke Unit, making life easier for people affected by stroke, and their families.