

Question on Notice

No. 677

Asked on 17 May 2018

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

QUESTION

With reference to the Whitsunday Times' article of 9 April 2018, which reported that Danielle McAlpine waited more than 500 days to see an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist—

Will the Minister (a) advise why Ms McAlpine had to wait 500 days to see an ENT specialist and (b) guarantee that no-one else in the Whitsunday Electorate has experienced similar days under the Palaszczuk Government?

ANSWER

- (a) I am advised that without Ms McAlpine's consent, Mackay Hospital and Health Service is unable to provide specific medical information in relation to her case.
- (b) On coming to office, the Palaszczuk Government discovered that 104,114 Queenslanders were waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment as at 1 March 2015. The Government has provided over half a billion dollars for our Specialist Outpatient Strategy to reduce wait times – including \$361.2 million in the 2015-16 Budget and \$154.7 million in the 2018-19 Budget.

I am advised that the number of Queenslanders waiting longer than 500 days for an outpatient appointment with an ear nose and throat (ENT) specialist was:

- 7,096 as at 1 March 2015
- 102 as at 1 May 2018.