

## **Question on Notice**

No. 1568

Asked on 15 October 2019

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

### **QUESTION**

Will the Minister advise how Queensland Health is supporting women affected by problems arising as a result of the insertion of transvaginal mesh?

### **ANSWER**

Queensland Health has developed the Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service to support women with pelvic mesh complications. This highly specialised service is provided by the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service. Commencing operation in April 2019, this is the first service to be co-designed with clinicians, Health Consumers Queensland and consumer representatives. The co-design of the statewide service was imperative to ensure women with pelvic mesh complications contributed equally with clinicians in all aspects of service development.

The Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service comprises an interdisciplinary team of specialist urogynaecologists, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers, pain and continence specialists. The statewide service is based at Varsity Lakes Day Hospital on the Gold Coast. Clinical services are provided at existing facilities at Varsity Lakes Day Hospital and Robina Hospital.

Equity of access for women across the state of Queensland is enabled through transparent eligibility and assessment criteria. Access to the Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service is via general practitioner referral only. This ensures patients are transitioned to their local community for ongoing care by their primary health provider. Telehealth services are utilised to support the care of women as they return home.

The service commenced seeing patients on 15 April 2019. I am advised that as at 18 October 2019, 129 women have been referred to the service, 116 women have attended for multidisciplinary care, and 774 episodes of care have been provided.

Queensland Health has committed \$4.4 million per year for three years to fund the Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service. The funding will provide care for 123 women a year for three years.