

Question on Notice

No. 397

Asked on 28 March 2019

MS S BOLTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to the lack of after-hours clinics and home/house doctor services in some electorates, including Noosa, resulting in residents relying on emergency and casualty departments—

Will the Minister advise the effect of the January 2018 Right Place Right Time campaign on emergency room overcrowding in regional areas?

ANSWER

The Right Place Right Time campaign takes a social media approach to informing consumers of options for alternate care locations through an accessible website.

I am advised that from 2017 to 2018, the number of presentations to Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Emergency Departments grew by almost 11,000 patients, which is growth of 7 per cent.

For the same period, semi-urgent (Category 4) and non-urgent (Category 5) presentations to Sunshine Coast HHS Emergency Departments grew at a lower rate of 6 per cent. This is a much lower growth rate than what was observed between 2016 and 2017, where the Sunshine Coast HHS Emergency Departments reported over 20 per cent growth in semi-urgent (Category 4) and non-urgent (Category 5) presentations.