

Question on Notice

No. 416

Asked on 28 March 2019

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister outline how many Queensland hospitals failed to reach the recognised midwife-to-patient benchmarks in 2018 (listed by hospital)?

ANSWER

There are currently no mandated midwife-to-patient ratios prescribed in maternity settings in Queensland.

Currently, appropriate staffing levels for nursing and midwifery across all of Queensland's public hospitals are determined using the industrially mandated workforce management tool, the Business Planning Framework (BPF): a tool for nursing and midwifery workload management. The BPF also forms the basis for the Nursing and Midwifery Workload Management Standard, which is made under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

The BPF determines staffing levels in maternity reflective of the acuity of women, providing midwives with a business planning process to determine appropriate staffing levels and skill mix to meet service requirements, and ensure an acceptable level of safety and responsiveness. During established labour, one-to-one care is promoted within Queensland Health maternity services. In services that have adopted a midwifery continuity of carer model (where the woman sees the same midwife who provides their antenatal care, is with the woman during birth and provides their postnatal care), an appropriate midwife to woman allocation is made by local agreement and can vary from 29 women to 40 women, depending on the care needs of the women.