

Question on Notice

No. 780

Asked on 16 July 2020

MR C BOYCE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

Will the Deputy Premier advise why the Breast Screen bus has not been allocated an appointment stop at the town of Wandoan in the Callide Electorate?

ANSWER

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the total daily number of appointments available in BreastScreen Queensland services has been reduced by 25 per cent to allow for increased infection control measures in between clients. In order to offer the maximum number of appointments, BreastScreen Toowoomba has consolidated the number of van relocations. Clients in Wandoan were offered appointments in either Taroom or Miles.

The BreastScreen bus was in Taroom for eight scheduled days, offering 180 appointments. The bus then travelled to Miles and offered 204 appointments over nine days. Statistics from previous screening indicate there are 133 clients in Taroom and 75 clients in Wandoan. Two hundred and forty clients were screened in Miles.

Relocating the van to Wandoan would have resulted in the loss of two days of screening due to the down time required for the relocation of the van, with a total loss of 66 appointments able to be offered for clients in the district.

A minibus was organised by BreastScreen to transport clients from Wandoan to Miles for screening, with extra appointments made available to accommodate these clients.

Darling Downs Health followed up individually with each client in the target age group of 50-74 years in Wandoan who had not booked an appointment on the BreastScreen van and received advice from these clients that they were either unable to be screened due to personal commitments or work commitments or that they were considering getting screening at another site.