

Question on Notice

No. 827

Asked on 11 August 2020

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

QUESTION

Will the Deputy Premier explain why the Palaszczuk Labor Government has failed to establish a drive-through COVID-19 testing centre in the Whitsunday Electorate?

ANSWER

COVID-19 testing is available at Proserpine, Bowen and Collinsville hospitals and at a Commonwealth-funded respiratory clinic in Cannonvale. Bowen residents can access a testing centre funded by BHP and operated by Vanguard Health.

All GPs are able to either support COVID-19 testing at their practices or by referral to pathology services Queensland Medical Laboratory and Sullivan Nicolaides.

Additional pop-up testing capability has been established in Airlie Beach to increase surveillance testing after sewage sampling at the Cannonvale Wastewater Treatment Plant has detected COVID-19 virus fragments: a drive-through clinic led by Mackay HHS at Broadwater Avenue and a walk-through clinic at the Transit Centre, operated by Vanguard Health contracted by BHP. Both pop-up clinics are located on land either owned or leased by the Whitsunday Regional Council. These locations are accessible and easily identifiable.

These existing services are meeting the current demand for testing. The Mackay Hospital and Health Service is monitoring this demand and regularly evaluates its COVID-19 response to ensure community needs are met.

Whitsunday electorate residents who are closer to Mackay can also access testing at the Showgrounds drive-through clinic, as well as the Commonwealth-funded clinic in North Mackay.