

Question on Notice

No. 94

Asked on 5 February 2020

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister investigate unconfirmed reports that tourists have presented to the Proserpine Hospital with the symptoms of Coronavirus and that they were turned away due to a lack of testing facilities and returned to their place of accommodation?

ANSWER

Testing for novel coronavirus was successfully developed by the team at Forensic and Scientific Services on 22 January 2020 and has been available to all people presenting with symptoms to their healthcare professional, including the Proserpine Hospital. Nobody is turned away from our health services.

Those people who meet the broad case definition for coronavirus infection, as determined by the Chief Health Officer, will be tested.

All samples tested from Proserpine Hospital have returned negative results.