

Question on Notice

No. 1305

Asked on 26 October 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Mackay Base Hospital—

Will the Minister advise for the period from 1 October 2020 to 1 October 2021 (reported separately by month and hospital department) (a) the total number of patients who have died at the hospital, (b) the cause of death listed on each patient's death certificate and (c) the number of Form 1As sent by the Mackay Base Hospital to the Coroner's Office?

ANSWER

Considering the obligations relating to confidential information under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (QLD) and out of respect for friends and family members of the deceased, I will not be responding to part (b) of the question or providing data split by hospital department.

With reference to part (a), the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages records the location of death based on information supplied in the Cause of Death Certificate. I am advised that the below table provides all deaths with the location recorded as Mackay Base Hospital for the time period 1 October 2020 to 1 October 2021.

	Number of deaths
October 2020	20
November 2020	17
December 2020	30
January 2021	24
February 2021	22
March 2021	24
April 2021	28
May 2021	31
June 2021	30
July 2021	44
August 2021	27
September 2021	26
1 October 2021	<5

Source: Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages

With reference to part (c), Form 1A is used “when a doctor seeks advice for the coroner about whether the death is / is not reportable, or the death is reportable and the doctor seeks the coroner’s authority to issue a death certificate because the cause of death is known and no autopsy or investigation appears necessary”

(Coroners Court of Queensland, 2019, *Information for Health Professionals*, version 3, p.1. https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/92868/m-osc-fs-information-for-health-professionals.pdf). The *Coroners Act 2003*, section 8 (3) (a-h), defines what is considered a reportable death.

A total of 40 Form 1As were sent by the Mackay Base Hospital to the Coroner's Office in the time period 1 October 2020 to 1 October 2021 (Source: Coroners Court of Queensland).