

Question on Notice

No. 171

Asked on 10 March 2021

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION

With reference to advice from a resident of Kingaroy that following her 17 year old daughter's visit to Kingaroy Hospital on 24 January with a suspected broken foot, they were not advised of the xray results (broken foot) until 25 February, some four and half weeks later—

Will the Minister advise (a) the normal wait time for Kingaroy Hospital patients to be advised of xray results, (b) why it took four and half weeks for the Kingaroy Hospital to advise the family of the x-ray results, (c) what plans are in place to ensure this lengthy wait does not occur in the future and (d) between 1 January 2021 and 1 March 2021, how many other Kingaroy Hospital patients also waited longer than the recommended timeframe to be advised of their x-ray results?

ANSWER

It would be inappropriate to discuss individual cases due to confidentiality issues.

I am advised by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service that result notifications to patients occur on three levels:

1. The requesting doctor contemporaneously reviews results (e.g.: plain x-ray film) at the time or on the day while the patient is in the hospital. Any positive results are discussed with the patient;
2. The verified x-ray reports are received 1-2 days after the initial investigation and are reviewed by a medical officer. This generally occurs in the same week as the initial investigation. Any studies with positive findings (e.g. fractures) are usually notified to the medical superintendent by the Toowoomba Picture Archiving and Communication System team. Any positive studies are then cross-checked against the Emergency Department Information System to confirm if the positive result was known and actioned, or if the result is a new finding. If the result is a new finding, the patient is contacted; and
3. Any outstanding reviews of results are also reviewed by the night doctor and are usually completed within 1-2 weeks.

I am further advised that additional regular audits by the medical superintendent will occur to ensure that outstanding investigations results are being reviewed and actioned.