

Question on Notice

No. 415

Asked on 20 April 2021

DR M ROBINSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise by year for the last five years the numbers of patients that have been using beds at the Redland Hospital whilst awaiting aged care or disability placements?

ANSWER

I am advised that the number of patients at Redland Hospital awaiting aged care or disability beds by calendar year is as follows:

- 2016 – 153;
- 2017 – 155;
- 2018 – 166;
- 2019 – 158; and
- 2020 – 129.

The decrease in 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, was experienced state-wide and is attributed to the concerted efforts of frontline health workers in conjunction with increased supports from the Commonwealth, to facilitate the safe and appropriate transition of patients from the hospital to the community. In particular, there was increased flexibility in National Disability Insurance Scheme policy that facilitated access to necessary disability supports.

Across the state, Queensland Health collects quarterly point-in-time data. On 24 February 2021, 575 patients were reported in Queensland hospitals awaiting Commonwealth-funded supports. This includes 286 younger patients waiting for disability supports and 289 older patients waiting for aged care supports.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to call on the Federal LNP Government to fund almost 600 aged and disability care packages in order to free up Queensland hospital beds. I note that the LNP voted in the Legislative Assembly on 12 May 2021 against a motion calling for Queensland's fair share of funding from the Federal LNP Government, however, I would encourage the LNP to speak with their federal colleagues for further funding to assist Queenslanders into aged care and disability placements.