

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 665**

**Asked on 26 May 2021**

**MR R MOLHOEK** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH) –

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the government's recent announcement of \$100m funding for 65 news beds in Queensland public hospitals—

Will the Minister advise how many of those news beds will be located on the Gold Coast and at which hospitals they will be located?

### **ANSWER**

Queensland's public health system is experiencing unprecedented demand for Emergency Services. This financial year there between 1 July 2020 and 30 April 2021, there were over 1,992,201 million presentations to Queensland's emergency departments. On average, our Emergency Departments, this financial year up until 30 April 2021, have seen over 6,550 patients each and every day.

The Government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders can access emergency care when they need it the most. Significant investments have been made throughout the year to support Emergency Departments.

In 2020-21, Gold Coast has received:

- funding to support an additional 64 beds to be opened; and
- an additional \$20 million in funding to support managing demands.

In addition to local Hospital and Health Service investment, the Care4Qld Strategy has been developed to respond to the challenges of increased emergency department demand. This phased investment strategy, will enhance access to emergent unplanned care where and when Queenslanders need it most by supporting targeted and system wide strategies.

The Care4QLD Strategy includes an initial \$100 million investment in 2021-22 to open additional beds, support the delivery of models of care to relieve pressure on emergency departments, and develop pathways to ensure patients are discharged from hospital at the right time to improve patient flow and bed capacity.

As part of the Strategy, Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service will initially receive:

- \$5.6 million to supplement the Shifting Minds Flagship Program - Crisis Now Mental Health model on the Gold Coast;
- \$1.4 million for Hospital in the Home Services in the Gold Coast region to ensure patients receive care in the right setting where appropriate, and free up vital hospital beds;

- \$1.5 million to expand the Transfer Initiative Nurse model of care currently implemented at both Gold Coast University and Robina Hospitals, and provide extra transitional resources to assist the flow of patients from the Queensland Ambulance Service to the care of hospital staff; and
- additional bed capacity funding via the winter bed funding allocation.

In addition, as with all Hospital and Health Services, and the public hospital facilities within those health services, Gold Coast will benefit from the development and implementation of system-wide strategies funded by Care4Qld, including funding to support the discharge of long stay patients to free up vital hospital beds, supporting Residential Aged-care Support Services to manage their vulnerable residents, and winter bed funding to support hospitals to manage surges in demand linked to the winter season.