

Question on Notice

No. 674

Asked on 26 May 2021

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

QUESTION

With reference to the \$100m Care4Qld package—

Will the Minister outline how this initiative will assist in alleviating the present demands being experienced at Redland Hospital?

ANSWER

Queensland's public health system is experiencing unprecedented demand for Emergency Services. This financial year, 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.

This 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.

I am advised in 2020-21, Metro South Hospital and Health Service has received additional funding of \$4.9 million to support expanded bed capacity.

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 initially Metro South Hospital and Health Service will receive:

- \$7.1 million for 24 additional beds at QE II Jubilee Hospital to assist patient flow and bed utilisation within the health service;
- \$1.8 million for Hospital in the Home Services in the Metro South region to ensure patients receive care in the right setting where appropriate, and free up vital acute hospital beds;

- \$1.15 million to support the Geriatric Evaluation and Management in the Home hospital avoidance initiative delivered through the Care in the Right Setting Program; and
- additional bed capacity funding via the winter bed funding allocation.

The 2021-22 health budget of the Palaszczuk Government also includes \$16.26 million towards the Phase 1 expansion of Redlands Hospital.

In addition, as with all Hospital and Health Services, and the public hospital facilities within those health services, Metro South Hospital and Health Service 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 in, for example, the winter season.