Question on Notice

No. 1220

Asked on 28 October 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 427 of 2022—
Will the Minister provide the amount of ambulance 'lost time' from July to September 2022 (reported separately by hospital and health service and calendar month)?

ANSWER

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) "lost time" is not a published standard performance measure. "Lost time" is an unofficial reporting metric that was developed for internal use to support inhouse performance analysis and operational decision making.

The QAS recognises that it has previously provided this information on request of the Member, however, to avoid potential for confusion it is more appropriate to refer to the established standard measure of Patient Off Stretcher Time (POST) that is provided to Queensland Health and publicly available from the QAS website under https://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/publications.html

The below table provides "lost time" data for the period July to September 2022, and also for October 2022. As the Member is likely aware, the months of July and August were associated with a sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 patients in the community and within our hospitals. Indeed, in July we saw a peak of 1,123 COVID inpatients in public and private facilities, the highest number ever recorded in Queensland. In addition to these inpatient bed pressures, thousands of health staff were furloughed due to illness, creating further pressures on our health system.

The table shows a clear improvement in "lost time" which reflects strongly on the performance of our hardworking health workforce.

The Palaszczuk Government's record $9.785 billion Health and Hospitals Plan, which will deliver three new hospitals, 11 hospital redevelopments and 2,509 extra beds, is designed to deliver further performance improvements in our busy public hospitals.

Ambulance Lost Time > 30 Minutes (In Hours)	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Cairns And Hinterland	448	385	259	343
Central Queensland	555	422	362	309
Childrens Health Queensland	42	52	51	50
Darling Downs	494	502	442	329
Gold Coast	985	759	758	809
Mackay	212	204	172	178
Mater Public Hospitals	787	637	698	496
Metro North	2,915	2,191	2,578	2,600
Metro South	4,950	4,206	4,127	2,884
North West	25	13	28	14
Sunshine Coast	1,054	996	727	651
Townsville	186	134	129	107
West Moreton	1,527	1,639	1,688	1,099
Wide Bay	719	743	610	698
Total Reportable Hospitals	**14,899**	**12,884**	**12,628**	**10,566**

Source: QAS eARF POST - Hospitals (Cognos Cube) 11 November 2022

Figures reflect the amount of Lost Time (in hours) at Queensland Health Reportable Hospitals by HHS for patients where the POST is greater than 30 minutes. Of the 16 HHSs, three do not have Reportable Hospitals.

Note: Lost Time is the total amount of time elapsed between the agreed POST target (within 30 minutes) and the time that a patient is transferred off stretcher to the care of the Hospital and Health Service clinical staff.