

Question on Notice

No. 1315

Asked on 9 November 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Audit Office Report 2: 2021-22 (Measuring emergency department patient wait time)—

Will the Minister advise how the department is currently reporting the use of short-term treatment areas within Emergency Departments (such as short stay units, clinical decision units)?

ANSWER

The Queensland Health Admitted Patient Data Collection defines an Emergency Department Short Stay Unit as the following:

- a unit designated and designed for the short-term treatment, observation, assessment and reassessment of patients initially triaged and assessed in the emergency department (ED):
 - with specific admission and discharge criteria and policies;
 - designed for short term stays no longer than 24 hours;
 - physically separated from the ED acute assessment area; and
 - have a static number of beds with oxygen, suction, patient ablution facilities

It is important to note that a short stay unit is not a temporary ED overflow area nor used to keep patients solely awaiting an inpatient bed nor awaiting treatment in the ED.

I am advised by the department that Queensland Health has undertaken a project to examine contemporary ED admission processes, identify opportunities for improvement and standardisation, and define metrics to enable optimal quality and efficiency outcomes.