

## Question on Notice

No. 1331

Asked on 10 November 2022

**MR J MCDONALD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

### QUESTION

With reference to Figure 3G in the Queensland Audit Office Report 8: 2021-22 (improving access to specialist outpatient services)—

Will the Minister provide an update, as at 30 September 2022 for (a) the number of long wait patients for each specialty listed in table 3G and (b) the percentage of total wait list number represented by each specialty as listed in table 3G?

### ANSWER

The Queensland Audit Office Report 8: 2021-22 Report (dated 6 December 2021) table 3G reported on seven of the 30 specialties recorded in the Specialist Outpatient Data Collection.

I have been advised that the QAO report and recommendations were provided and accepted prior to the COVID-19 (Omicron) wave. In the past 10 months the health services have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 waves which has resulted in some service limitations driven by either patients needing to delay treatment, staff being unwell with COVID-19 and/or staff furloughed as close contacts.

The following represents the data as at 1 October 2022 (the September 2022 reporting period) and includes:

- (a) Specialist Outpatient Long Wait Patients by Specialty; and
- (b) Specialty Long Wait patients as a proportion of the Ready for Care (RFC) Long Waits.

Clinical Specialty	a) RFC Long-waits	(b) Percentage of RFC Long waits
Orthopaedic	16,894	15%
Ophthalmology	14,397	13%
Gastroenterology	8,496	8%
Ear Nose and Throat	13,798	12%
Medical Other	5,146	5%
General Surgery	6,468	6%
Urology	6,523	6%

Source: Specialist Outpatient Data Collection, 13 October 2022.

RFC – Ready for Care