

Question on Notice

No. 1380

Asked on 10 November 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to the fracture clinic at Gympie hospital

Will the Minister (a) advise the dates and times it has been open for service since January 2022 and (b) provide the data on the number of Gympie patients treated at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital for fracture related issues (reported separately by month since January 2022)?

ANSWER

The Gympie Hospital Fracture Clinic operated a weekly clinic until May 2022, when a shortage of Medical Officers forced its temporary closure.

Historically, regional areas have found it challenging to recruit and retain skilled health workers. This was further impacted by COVID-19 and is not unique to the Sunshine Coast region.

The Fracture Clinic reopened with a fortnightly service on 13 July 2022, however, it is expected to return to a weekly service in February 2023.

I am advised 843 fracture clinic appointments have been provided at Gympie Hospital from 5 January 2022 to 16 November 2022.

The number of appointments for those residing in Gympie, who have been reviewed in the Fracture Clinic at Sunshine Coast University Hospital since 5 January 2022 to 16 November 2022 is:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	TOTAL
Ortho Fracture New	7	28	34	23	25	55	28	49	61	38	18	366
Ortho Fracture Review	33	22	53	50	41	71	46	47	66	66	25	520
SCUH Grand total	40	50	87	73	66	126	74	96	127	104	43	886

Please note, a portion of these patients were referred to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital due to case complexity and the scope of practice available at Gympie Hospital. It should also be noted these are appointments and not individual patients, with most patients requiring multiple appointments.