

Question on Notice

No. 298

Asked on 30 March 2022

MR T WATTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how many, and what types of, specialist services are available at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, but not available in Toowoomba?

ANSWER

It is assumed that the Member refers to the Toowoomba Hospital in his question, as a comparison to the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I have been advised that the healthcare services available at these two facilities are publicly available on each Hospital and Health Service website. For the Members' benefit the links are below to this public information:

<https://www.darlingdowns.health.qld.gov.au/services/locations/toowoomba-hospital>

<https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/princess-alexandra-hospital/services>.

It is important to note that the Toowoomba Hospital is a secondary care hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital is a tertiary health care centre, providing care in all major adult specialties, except for obstetrics.

As the two hospitals provide differing levels of complexity of medical care, it is inappropriate to compare the services as to do so would not be comparing 'apples to apples'.

Hospital and Health Services across the state have well-established processes in place so patients receive an excellent level of care. This includes ensuring healthcare workers are highly-trained, skilled and qualified to perform the role they are in.

While public hospitals aim to achieve the safe provision of care for all patients, as close to home as possible, it is recognised some people may need to travel outside their local community to access necessary care.

If specialist support is not available locally, some Hospital and Health Services utilise ongoing partnerships with private-sector hospitals and other HHSs to maximise services in the community. This may mean a patient is transferred to a different hospital to ensure they receive the appropriate level of specialist care.

It is for this reason the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme subsidises travel and accommodation costs for Queenslanders living in rural and remote locations requiring to travel for their care.