

Question on Notice

No. 300

Asked on 30 March 2022

MS R BATES ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to Emergency Departments in Queensland's 26 Reporting Hospitals—Will the Minister provide the longest time a patient waited for their care to start in each calendar month from 1 January 2017 to February 2022 (reported separately by each reporting hospital)?

ANSWER

Queensland Health provides free public hospital emergency care across the state to people who are seriously injured or ill and need treatment.

I am advised that when a person arrives at an emergency department for treatment, a qualified triage nurse clinically assesses how urgent their condition is and assigns a category according to the Australasian Triage Scale. There are five triage categories, where one is most urgent and five is least urgent. If a patient is identified to be suitable to be triaged to a less urgent category, they continue to be monitored by a Clinical Initiative Nurse (CIN) or equivalent while awaiting formal review by a medical officer or specialist nurse or allied health professional. This may include monitoring of vital signs, provision of analgesia and initiation of diagnostic tests. As such, patient care commences from when the person arrives at the emergency department.