

## Question on Notice

No. 322

Asked on 30 March 2022

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

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) how many of Queensland's 727 COVID-19 deaths had comorbidities on their death certificate and (b) provide a breakdown of these 727 deaths by age group, region and vaccination status?

### ANSWER

Queensland Health's published information about COVID-19 statistics is updated daily. It includes data on new and total cases, hospitalisations including ICU, testing and vaccination coverage. This information is provided by Hospital and Health Service and Local Government Area, as well as by the age group and gender of cases. This information is available on the Queensland Health website and has been for some time. For the benefit of the Member, the information can be found here: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/statistics>.

The Queensland Government's Open Data Portal also includes a line list of Queensland's COVID-19 cases by the date of the individual's notification, the location of their usual residence and the source of their infection. This information is available to all Queenslanders via the internet. For the benefit of the Member the information can be found by going to the following website <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/>. Once at the website a search on the term "COVID-19" will provide a range of information sources to the Member and indeed all Queenslanders.

In addition, a range of information is published at the national level, including epidemiology reports that are issued by the Australian Government Department of Health. These reports cover trends including source of acquisition; demographics of cases; and illness severity. The Australian Bureau of Statistics also publishes a range of data relating to COVID-19, including COVID-19 deaths.

With respect to the reporting of deaths, the number reported in Queensland is the total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 around the time of their death. As it can be difficult to attribute a death to a single cause, particularly for people who have multiple medical conditions, deaths reported include anyone who dies with COVID-19, except where COVID-19 can be easily excluded as a factor in the death (for example, a vehicle accident). The presence of underlying health issues and pre-existing conditions for those who are in ICU or who die are not reported on the Queensland COVID-19 statistics website, as to do so may identify the individual.

Publishing the presence of underlying health issues and pre-existing conditions in this context has limited relevance. It is well established that the impacts of COVID-19 are more severe among those with comorbidities and with older age.

The member has asked for information to be broken down by age group, region and vaccination status for each of the 727 Queenslanders who tragically lost their lives due to COVID-19. I have been advised to do so for each case would potentially identify the individual and to do so would be inappropriate.

I take this opportunity to encourage all Queenslanders to roll up their sleeve and get their vaccination and booster shots.