

Question on Notice

No. 325

Asked on 31 March 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to the Minister's statement in the House on 21 April 2021 that, 'our health system is currently providing beds to almost 600 people who should be in disability or aged-care accommodation' and repeated in the media on 27 March 2022—

Will the Minister provide the following (a) a list of each Queensland Health facility where these patients are located and (b) the number of patients from this cohort at each facility?

ANSWER

Long-stay patients are inpatients that are medically ready for discharge but are awaiting appropriate supports to transition to the community. Queensland Health conducts a statewide long-stay patient census on a quarterly basis. Long-stay data collections are point-in-time snapshots. The number of long-stay patients is subject to change daily as long-stay patients transition to the community and other patients become long-stay.

The statement made in the Legislative Assembly on 21 April 2021 that, 'our health system is currently providing beds to almost 600 people who should be in disability or aged-care accommodation', referred to data as at the 24 February 2021 census.

To compare annual point-in-time data, I have been advised that as at 24 February 2021, there were a total of 575 long-stay patients across Queensland Health settings. In the following year, as at 23 February 2022, there were 512 long-stay patients across Queensland Health settings. I am further advised that as patients do transfer across different hospital settings the most appropriate data is by Hospital and Health Service (HHS), see below:

Long-stay patients by HHS as at 24 February 2021 and 23 February 2022

HHS	Patients 24/02/21	Patients 23/02/22
Cairns and Hinterland	22	18
Central Queensland	44	46
Central West	0	0
Children's Health Queensland	6	4
Darling Downs	27	47
Gold Coast	58	58
Mackay	13	32

Mater Public	1	0
Metro North	120	104
Metro South	60	33
North West	13	6
South West	7	4
Sunshine Coast	32	39
Torres and Cape	1	0
Townsville	119	55
West Moreton	25	37
Wide Bay	27	29
Grand Total	575	512

The decline in total long-stay patients from February 2021 to February 2022 is a testament to Queensland Health's significant workforce effort and investment to support long-stay patients who no longer require medical care to be discharged into the community for a more appropriate living arrangements that support their needs and wellbeing.

Queensland hospitals continue to see unprecedented acute care demand and solutions to addressing long stay patient issues. Queensland Health continues to advocate to the Commonwealth for long term, sustainable, and fit-for-purpose solutions to reduce the volume and length of stay for long-stay patients that are medically ready for discharge.