

Question on Notice

No. 513

Asked on 24 May 2022

MR S KNUTH asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to yesterday's announcement by the Premier of free flu vaccinations— Will the Minister advise (a) why there was no prior consultation with regional GP's and Pharmacists, (b) how regional GP's and Pharmacists will find stock to meet the demand given wholesaler stock shortages, (c) how regional GPs and Pharmacists will administer given there are no Guildcare platform updates to enable manual entry of patients requesting free flu vaccinations and non-provision of QR codes used by patients and (d) how the Minister will immediately address these issues?

ANSWER

The *2022 Flu vaccination blitz – Free flu vaccines for all Queenslanders* initiative (the initiative) commenced on 24 May 2022. The initiative ends on 30 June 2022.

I have been advised that Queensland Health consulted with pharmaceutical and medical professional bodies prior to and following the announcement of this initiative.

It is understood there is sufficient influenza vaccine stock available in Australia to meet the expected demand across the country. Queensland Health continues to consult with all relevant stakeholders, including vaccine suppliers and peak professional bodies, on the implementation of the initiative. This includes implementing strategies to address the needs of providers in regional, rural and remote communities.

I have been further advised that regional General Practitioners will continue to use their medical practice software to record influenza vaccinations administered. The Pharmacy Guild is fully supportive of the initiative and has undertaken system enhancements to address the issues raised regarding the Guildcare platform. A Quick Response (QR) code system is not required.