

Question on Notice

No. 628

Asked on 21 June 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to the Laidley Dental Clinic in the Lockyer Electorate—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for their treatment/procedure as at 1 June 2022, (b) the average waiting time for those patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for their treatment/procedure as at 1 June 2022 and (c) any plans to reduce the waiting times for public dental patients in the Lockyer Valley?

ANSWER

- (a) As the waiting lists are reported on the last day of the month, the following information relates to 30 June 2022.

As of 30 June 2022, there was a total of 1307 patients on the general care waiting list at the Laidley Dental Clinic for a check-up and general dental care.

Of those patients, 1159 were within the recommended wait time of two years for a check-up and general dental care, while 148 were waiting longer than two years.

- (b) As of 30 June 2022 the average wait for all patients waiting on the general care waiting list at the Laidley Dental Clinic was 413 days.

- (c) West Moreton Oral Health Services (WMOHS) faced a significant challenge due to the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron surge in December 2021 and January 2022, with a reduction in the available workforce and numerous patients who had COVID-19. There was also a disruption through the forced closure of dental clinics to undertake urgent rectification work as a result of the flooding event in February 2022.

WMOHS continues to deliver high quality and timely oral health care in the Lockyer electorate through the Laidley Dental Clinic. WMOHS is committed to providing care closer to home in the region and has ensured the Laidley Dental Clinic is staffed and open five days a week. To address longer wait times WMOHS partners with private providers where suitable and outsources patients under the Federation Funding Agreement (previously National Partnership Agreement). WMOHS is actively recruiting to ensure there are no unfilled staff vacancies that would impact on clinical services and has developed COVID-19 response plans to mitigate service delivery disruptions when faced with future surges in COVID-19 numbers.