

Question on Notice

No. 629

Asked on 21 June 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to the lack of a computed tomography (CT) scanner at Ingham Hospital and where patients are currently required to be transferred to Townsville Hospital or a local private provider during their opening hours to access this essential medical equipment—

Will the Minister advise for the last five years (reported separately by financial year) (a) how many patients have been transferred from Ingham Hospital to Townsville Hospital to have a CT scan and (b) how many patients have been transferred from Ingham Hospital to a local provider to have a CT scan?

ANSWER

The Townsville University Hospital imaging department remains the primary CT imaging service used by Ingham Hospital for after-hours and emergency services, but also provides routine CTs through their scheduled clinics.

I have been advised inter-hospital transfer information between Ingham and Townsville University Hospital does not provide an identifier for CT as a reason for transfer, as this will not be the primary diagnosis.

The Ingham community maintains access to a local imaging service through Rural Medical Imaging, including the provision of CT imagery.

The local health service data collection identified 392 requests for CT imaging at the Ingham Rural Medical Imaging facility from January to December 2021.

Data collection, at this level, is only available since January 2021.