

Question on Notice

No. 689

Asked on 23 June 2022

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise where the additional federal funding will be allocated as a matter of urgency regarding ambulance delays and extensive wait times, including for surgeries and specialists such as psychologists in the Noosa and Sunshine Coast region?

ANSWER

Federal funding delivered as part of the National Health Reform Agreement is taken into consideration as part of the annual contract negotiations with Hospital and Health Services.

With specific reference to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, the 2022-23 operational budget is \$1.454 billion. This represents a \$104.7 million or 7.8 per cent increase to support the expansion of clinical services to improve patient flow and implement initiatives to return planned care performance to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Specific funding being provided to improve patient flow initiatives include:

- \$6 million for increased emergency department capacity;
- \$1.16 million to establish a rapid access clinic to reduce avoidable presentations of patients known to the health service and reduce pressure on the emergency department; and
- \$469,000 recurrent funding to employ a Transfer Initiative Nurse.