

Question on Notice

No. 739

Asked on 16 August 2022

MR J MCDONALD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 628 of 2022—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many private partners does WMOHS currently use to provide dental services and (b) is there any plan to increase this number to reduce the wait list?

ANSWER

I am advised that:

- (a) West Moreton Oral Health Service partners with 41 private dental practices and nine private denture clinics to deliver dental care via vouchers issued to eligible public dental patients.
- (b) The current number of private partners is sufficient to expend the allocated Commonwealth funding for public dental services under the Federation Funding Agreement (previously National Partnership Agreement).

The previous federal government cut the level of Commonwealth funding for public dental services under the Agreement by \$8.7 million per year – or approximately 30 per cent – from 2017 and then froze it at this level.

We are continuing to engage with the new Albanese Government regarding unfreezing the level of Commonwealth funding, which will allow more dental patients to be treated.