

Question on Notice

No. 769

Asked on 16 August 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to the need for a dialysis chair at Tully hospital and advice in response to Question on Notice in May 2021 that the number of Tully residents who require dialysis treatment has increased—

Will the Minister now approve the installation of a dialysis chair at Tully hospital to improve the quality of life for local residents requiring constant treatment?

ANSWER

The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) regularly undertakes service planning, including renal dialysis services, to ensure services are planned and developed in a sustainable way and prioritised according to health need. This planning ensures the effective use of current and future resources.

I have been advised that whilst there has been a small increase in the number of dialysis patients in the Tully region, this number is still lower than the number of patients required to safely provide an in-centre satellite dialysis service at the Tully Hospital, given the training requirements for dialysis nurses. Home dialysis treatments are options for some residents.

The CHHHS continues to monitor demand for renal dialysis services and an in-centre satellite dialysis service will be taken into consideration with any future service planning.

The Palaszczuk Government is focused on delivering better healthcare services across every corner of the state. We know the demand for kidney health services is increasing, and is being most acutely felt in regional, rural and remote parts of Queensland.

Over the past three years, the Palaszczuk Government has invested more than \$50 million in additional funding for dedicated kidney care programs across the state, and this will increase to more than \$100 million over the next four years. This includes a strong focus on delivering more renal dialysis treatment spaces across regional, rural and remote communities.