

Question on Notice

No. 827

Asked on 18 August 2022

MS A LEAHY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how many days the Multipurpose Health Services, General Practices, and Community Clinics in the South West Hospital and Health Service have been without a doctor or a locum doctor since 1 July 2021 (reported separately by facility)?

ANSWER

In the instance where a Multipurpose Health Service or General Practice is without a doctor or locum doctor, patient care is provided by way of outreach medical officers and nurse practitioners, telehealth, Virtual General Practice (GP) Clinics and Retrieval Services Queensland.

I am advised for the period since 1 July 2021 to 18 August 2022, across 11 applicable facilities in total, a site specific doctor or locum doctor has not been on site at the following Multipurpose Health Service / General Practice facilities:

Facility	Vacant Days
Augathella MPHS/ GP	42
Cunnamulla MPHS/ GP	39
Dirranbandi MPHS/ GP	26
Injune MPHS/ GP	3
Mitchell MPHS/ GP	13
Mungindi MPHS/ GP	99
Quilpie MPHS/ GP	100
Surat MPHS/ GP	10

Note the same doctor covers the Multipurpose Health Service and General Practice.

Under the model of care, medical officers are not employed at Community Clinics, however, as a service to communities outreach is provided by Roma, Charleville and St George Hospital doctors and the Royal Flying Doctors Service at Thargomindah.

South West HHS continues to experience significant Senior Medical Officer vacancies across local communities due to a national and statewide shortage in doctors, compounded by an increasingly depleted locum workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.