

Question on Notice

No. 1078

Asked on 13 September 2023

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to performance level data provided in the Minister's answer to Question on Notice No. 1381 from November 2022 where it was revealed the performance level of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (WBHHS) had dropped from Level 1 to Level 3 (unsatisfactory) in just three years—

Will the Minister confirm (a) if ministerial advisors have been meeting with WBHHS executives on a weekly basis in an attempt to improve performance levels, (b) if the Minister has personally been conducting regular meetings with the WBHHS executives, (c) what actions are being taken to improve the WBHHS performance level and (d) the current performance rating of the WBHHS?

ANSWER

The Queensland Health Performance and Accountability Framework (the Framework) details the Government's approach to the performance management of public health services in Queensland and operates in accordance with the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

The Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (WBHHS) current performance level is 'Intensive Performance Support'.

I am advised that WBHHS and the Department of Health are meeting all obligations in line with the Framework, including regular meetings with the Director-General.

In addition, in December 2022, an Advisor was appointed to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Board to oversee improvements in the financial and activity performance of WBHHS. I understand the Advisor attends Board meetings and regularly engages with the HHS Executive Leadership.

A Financial Recovery Plan has been developed and is monitored by the Department of Health. Performance improvement support has been provided to WBHHS have been in line with the Performance and Accountability Framework and its requirements.

I can confirm that I have met the Chair and Chief Executive of WBHHS. I have also met with the Advisor appointed to the Board. My Ministerial diaries are published online at <https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/ministers-portfolios/shannon-fentiman.aspx>.

In relation to hospital performance, I am advised that through the \$764 million *Putting Patients First* plan, WBHHS has received additional funding for:

- Emergency Department flow commander roles to optimise flow of patients across the entire Emergency Department experience;
- Transit and Discharge Lounge expansions to support timely movement of patients who are ready for discharge; and
- Allied Health Service Enhancement to support timely patient discharge, including on weekends.