

Question on Notice

No. 1198

Asked on 11 October 2023

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to in-home palliative care services provided by the Darling Downs Hospital and Health System in the South Burnett—

Will the Minister clarify (a) the number of DDHHS community nurses currently providing in-home palliative care, (b) are in-home palliative care services contracted out to other agencies, (c) how many people per year required in-home palliative care in the South Burnett for the years 2019- current and (d) what was the average wait time for people needing to access this service?

ANSWER

(a) the number of DDHHS community nurses currently providing in-home palliative care;

The South Burnett Cluster has 1.0 FTE Clinical Nurse Consultant (NG7) position. In addition to the South Burnett Clinical nurse, the Toowoomba specialist Palliative Care Service has a 1.0 FTE Clinical Nurse Consultant (NG7) position and 3.58 FTE Clinical Nurses (NG6) who provide in-home palliative care consultations and care coordination across the health service, including in the South Burnett Cluster.

(b) are in-home palliative care services contracted out to other agencies;

Palliative Care services are provided via a statewide contract with BlueCare.

(c) how many people per year required in-home palliative care in the South Burnett for the years 2019- current; and

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 To 13 October 2023 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|
| Total | 113 | 143 | 165 | 154 | 120 |

(d) what was the average wait time for people needing to access this service?

Palliative Care referrals are assessed based on the presenting circumstances of the individual, in line with palliation and end-of-life care. Given this is customised to the consumer's presenting condition, there is no fixed timeframe to assess referrals. Staff are very receptive to the presenting condition of the consumer and coordinate care to provide services to suit individual requirements.