

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1212**

**Asked on 11 October 2023**

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

### **QUESTION**

With reference to travel for Toowoomba patients' medical procedures in the last financial year (2022-23)—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many Toowoomba patients travelled to Brisbane, Ipswich or the Gold Coast for a medical procedure (reported monthly), (b) (i) for what procedures was travel required (reported separately by procedure total) and (ii) how many of these procedures will be made available in Toowoomba when the new redevelopment is complete and (c) how many patients were transported by Ambulance for their surgery outside of Toowoomba?

### **ANSWER**

I am advised that as at 13 October 2023, there have been 977 instances where a patient has travelled to Brisbane, Ipswich or the Gold Coast for a medical procedure.

Of these 977 instances, it should be noted that there may be duplication given the Patient Travel Information Management System (PTIMS) data is based on individual procedure and some patients have a requirement to travel for multiple specialty procedures at the same time.

The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) Guideline allows for patients to submit claims up to 12 months post the date of their appointment. Due to this, along with system restrictions in standard reports available, it is not possible to break the requested information into months as requested.

I am advised that procedures where travel required (reported separately by procedure total) are as follows:

- Allied Health - 3
- Cardiology - 70
- Cardio-Thoracic Surgery - 18
- Dermatology - 18
- Diagnostic Radiology - 1
- Endocrinology - 7
- Gastroenterology & Hepatology - 30
- General Surgery - 18
- Geriatric Medicine - 1
- Gynaecological Oncology - 6
- Haematology - 25
- Immunology & Allergy - 5

- Intensive Care Medicine - 3
- Internal Medicine 4
- Medical Oncology - 31
- Nephrology (Renal Medicine) - 7
- Neurology - 34
- Neurosurgery - 28
- Nuclear Medicine - 2
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology - 22
- Ophthalmology - 144
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery - 9
- Organ Transplant - 3
- Orthopaedic Surgery - 38
- Otorhinolaryngology (Ear Nose & Throat) - 20
- Paediatric Surgery - 35
- Paediatrics & Child Health - 249
- Plastic Surgery - 24
- Psychiatry - 3
- Radiation Oncology - 13
- Radiology - 1
- Rehabilitation Medicine - 2
- Respiratory & Sleep Medicine - 26
- Rheumatology - 14
- Urology - 39
- Vascular Surgery – 24

Every effort is made to facilitate medical procedures close to patients' homes, nonetheless, it shall always be the case that certain complex procedures require travel to specialists in larger hospitals. This is particularly the case for patients who require quaternary level surgical services.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service advise that the models-of-delivery and the models-of-care for services will be determined during the finalisation of the New Toowoomba Hospital dual campus design.

Detailed analysis of surgical flows from Toowoomba Hospital to PAH and QCH will require data requests to respective facilities based on patients' place of residence.