

Question on Notice

No. 1322

Asked on 25 October 2023

MR R STEVENS asked the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and the Minister for Women (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the 11 recommendations made following a review of the Maternal Fetal Medicine Service in Townsville—

Will the Minister provide (a) the status of each recommendation, and details on the work undertaken so far and (b) for any recommendation which is incomplete, the anticipated completion date?

ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$11.2 million into the service over the next four years, which will assist women through complex pregnancies and provide them the comfort of knowing they are in safe hands.

I am advised that seven (7) of the eleven (11) recommendations have already been implemented and delivered, with the remaining four (4) on track for completion as planned.

The Townsville Health and Hospital service continues toward implementation and are on track to deliver recommendations three, five, nine and ten:

- Develop a defined operating budget under a single cost centre with the ability to maintain prospective oversight of the revenue and costs of the Maternal Fetal Medicine Service against performance/outcome targets.
- Develop a termination of pregnancy pathway with ongoing oversight by Women and Children's Service Group.
- Streamline flow through the Maternal Fetal Medicine Service so that maternal fetal medicine consultations are directed to cases where subspecialty maternal fetal medicine input is required. When the clinical circumstances meet the agreed requirements (e.g., normal ultrasound findings), maternal fetal medicine consultation is often not required.
- Support protected time for the integration of education/training and research into the Townsville University Hospital Maternal Fetal Medicine Service.

I am advised that at this stage the completion dates for these recommendations are dependent on multiple factors, including recruitment and consultation for new models of care, therefore definitive dates are unable to be provided at this stage.

