

## Question on Notice

No. 1439

Asked on 15 November 2023

**MS R BATES** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 81 of 2023 and Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Key Performance Indicators as outlined in HHS service agreements— Will the Minister provide the number of 'Emergency Department stays greater than 24 hours' (reported separately by each month) for: (a) July 2023, (b) August 2023, (c) September 2023 and (d) October 2023?

### ANSWER

Any patient presenting to an Emergency Department (ED) will be assessed and appropriately triaged, depending on their condition.

For example, in the September 2023 Quarter, 100 per cent of the most serious patients presenting to our EDs were seen within two minutes.

In addition, between July and September of this year, there were more than 575,000 presentations to EDs across Queensland, and close to 75 per cent of those were treated within clinically recommended timeframes.

And in further promising news, we have seen improvements across the board, with the statewide proportion of patients spending longer than 24 hours falling to below one per cent of all presentations.

There are a number of reasons a patient may stay for 24 hours within the ED, including patients with volatile clinical status requiring repeated adjustments to treatment interventions and clinical decision making around ongoing care needs and most appropriate disposition. Patients may also require access to specialist clinicians or equipment, that would not be immediately available outside of the ED. For example, telemetry, negative pressure, isolation or mental health.

When patients are being treated in the ED for more than 24 hours, they are monitored by the clinical staff and the management to identify the reason and to take affirmative action where required.

For example, if a patient is waiting for a medical admission, then an escalation process will occur to help facilitate the movement of the patient.

I am advised that where patients are receiving treatment in EDs, they are in designated treatment spaces.

I have been advised by the Department that the below lists the number of patients that were being treated in hospital EDs for more than 24 hours before being discharged or admitted from the months of July to October 2023.

- Cairns – 4, 14, 5, 4 respectively, of a total of 30,093 patients seen in that time;
- Gladstone – 25, 32, 18, 16 respectively, of a total of 12,297 patients seen in that time;
- Rockhampton – 218, 255, 180, 231 respectively, of a total of 17,891 patients seen in that time;
- Queensland Children's – 3, 0, 0, 1 respectively, of a total of 25,086 patients seen in that time;
- Toowoomba – 20, 14, 4, 15 respectively, of a total of 22,663 patients seen in that time;
- Gold Coast University – 120, 52, 38, 60 respectively, of a total of 41,548 patients seen in that time;
- Robina – 15, 7, 7, 6 respectively, of a total of 20,843 patients seen in that time;
- Mackay – 155, 219, 173, 155 respectively, of a total of 17,847 patients seen in that time;
- Mater Adult – 14, 9, 2, 6 respectively, of a total of 17,681 patients seen in that time;
- Caboolture – 94, 35, 56, 93 respectively, of a total of 19,976 patients seen in that time;
- Prince Charles – 0, 0, 3, 0 respectively, of a total of 38,007 patients seen in that time;
- Redcliffe – 27, 3, 9, 5 respectively, of a total of 24,643 patients seen in that time;
- Royal Brisbane & Women's – 16, 4, 12, 4 respectively, of a total of 29,308 patients seen in that time;
- Logan – 133, 114, 57, 46 respectively, of a total of 36,570 patients seen in that time;
- Princess Alexandra – 62, 18, 6, 29 respectively, of a total of 22,710 patients seen in that time;
- Queen Elizabeth II – 27, 14, 6, 5 respectively, of a total of 20,644 patients seen in that time;
- Redland – 130, 128, 55, 73 respectively, of a total of 19,282 patients seen in that time;
- Mount Isa – 57, 47, 36, 12 respectively, of a total of 10,895 patients seen in that time;
- Gympie – 5, 10, 11, 20 respectively, of a total of 11,127 patients seen in that time;
- Nambour – 4, 2, 0, 2 respectively, of a total of 12,321 patients seen in that time;
- Sunshine Coast University – 1, 0, 0, 0 respectively, of a total of 31,488 patients seen in that time;
- Townsville – 4, 3, 2, 4 respectively, of a total of 33,831 patients seen in that time;
- Ipswich – 18, 12, 5, 24 respectively, of a total of 25,959 patients seen in that time;
- Bundaberg – 16, 55, 32, 72 respectively, of a total of 16,057 patients seen in that time;
- Hervey Bay – 230, 131, 218, 245 respectively, of a total of 14,587 patients seen in that time;
- Maryborough – 11, 13, 9, 8 respectively, of a total of 8,296 patients seen in that time.