

Question on Notice

No. 1482

Asked on 16 November 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to Specialist Outpatient appointments conducted by Queensland Health—

Will the Minister provide as at 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 (a) patients treated within the clinically recommended times and (b) number of patients waiting?

ANSWER

Queensland's health system, like health systems across the world, is experiencing a range of pressures, including a global workforce shortage and rapid population growth leading to increased demand.

Demand for specialist outpatient appointments has increased by nearly 50 per cent since 2016, with approximately 685,000 referrals received in the 2022-23 financial year alone.

But service delivery is also increasing, with 676,435 total appointments delivered in the last financial year, an increase of 55,284 (8.9 per cent) on the previous financial year.

I am advised that the Specialist Outpatient Data Collection was formally established in 2015-2016 and as such comparable data is not available prior to 1 July 2015.

- a) The list below outlines the number of specialist outpatients seen within clinically recommended times for each quarter from July 2015 to December 2022.

2015:

- July to September – 106,107; and
- October to December – 99,418

2016:

- January to March – 91,600;
- April to June – 109,025;
- July to September – 118,741; and
- October to December – 107,631

2017:

- January to March – 109,761;

- April to June – 124,595;
- July to September – 126,732; and
- October to December – 116,833

2018:

- January to March – 117,206;
- April to June – 127,130;
- July to September – 131,047; and
- October to December – 124,908

2019:

- January to March – 124,224;
- April to June – 132,946;
- July to September – 142,607; and
- October to December – 133,831

2020:

- January to March – 131,841;
- April to June – 154,917;
- July to September – 128,996; and
- October to December – 123,046

2021:

- January to March – 119,513;
- April to June – 127,875;
- July to September – 127,833; and
- October to December – 120,066

2022:

- January to March – 91,589;
- April to June – 105,718;
- July to September – 112,837; and
- October to December – 110,805

b) The list below outlines the number of specialist outpatients on the waitlist who were waiting within clinically recommended timeframes. These figures are as at the census date at the end of each respective quarter.

2015:

- 1 July 2015 - 125,454
- 1 October 2015 - 125,995
- 1 January 2016 - 122,788

2016:

- 1 April 2016 - 120,379
- 1 July 2016 - 127,209
- 1 October 2016 – 128,073

— 1 January 2017 – 132,339

2017:

- 1 April 2017 - 136,719
- 1 July 2017 – 135,255
- 1 October 2017 – 137,485
- 1 January 2018 – 145,800

2018:

- 1 April 2018 - 152,002
- 1 July 2018 – 156,732
- 1 October 2018 – 160,586
- 1 January 2019 – 165,777

2019:

- 1 April 2019 - 162,931
- 1 July 2019 - 163,128
- 1 October 2019 – 168,562
- 1 January 2020 – 175,468

2020:

- 1 April 2020 - 161,089
- 1 July 2020 – 146,366
- 1 October 2020 – 152,349
- 1 January 2021 – 153,818

2021:

- 1 April 2021 - 154,407
- 1 July 2021 – 169,190
- 1 October 2021 – 170,939
- 1 January 2022 – 160,689

2022:

- 1 April 2022 - 153,426
- 1 July 2022 – 159,437
- 1 October 2022 – 157,165
- 1 January 2023 – 160,348