

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1514**

**Asked on 28 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 the \$20m announced at the 'Ministerial Patient Flow Meeting' on 24 November—

Will the Minister provide (a) the number of newly created nursing positions (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service), (b) the funding provided to each Hospital and Health Service (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service) for newly created nursing positions, (c) the number of newly created Medical Commanders (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service), (d) the funding provided to each Hospital and Health Service (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service) for newly created Medical Commanders, (e) which rapid access services and surgical assessment units will be expanded (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service and funding received), (f) which imaging services will be expanded at what facilities (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service and funding received) and (g) the level of funding provided to General Practice provided to employ Patient Care Facilitators?

### **ANSWER**

Queensland continues to invest in initiatives to improve patient flow and support timely access to emergency care to ensure better health outcomes for Queenslanders.

I am advised that the Minister is continuing to work with Department of Health, senior clinicians and Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) to determine the allocation of additional nursing and medical support to align with other models of care in Emergency Departments (EDs) across the state.

Based on preliminary calculations ascertained during consultation, 16 nursing positions will be allocated to support this initiative across 8 sites. The additional nursing coverage within EDs will focus on triage and waiting room nursing support that will allow for faster transfer of patients from ambulances and ensure early assessments and care starts in the waiting room. This will enable the Queensland Ambulance Service to respond to other community calls and ensure patients within the waiting room can be escalated to the ED team by the nurse as required.

Additional medical support such as a 'Medical Commander' role will manage the flow of patients from ambulances, ensure timely disposition decision and further enhance patient safety within the ED. These positions will enhance current senior decision-making models of care with preliminary calculations ascertained during consultation of 5 Full Time Equivalents over 9 sites.

An additional 0.8 FTE FACEM will be provided to increase patient safety and support the increased demand for Ipswich Hospital.

Rapid Access Services (RAS) and Surgical Assessment Units (SAU) will improve patient flow by providing assessment and treatment to patients requiring clinical review or escalation of care outside of the ED. The HHSs have submitted funding proposals and these are currently under consideration.

I am advised that it is expected that HHSs will have funding confirmed early 2024 on the allocation of nursing and medical funding, and expansion of RAS and SAU across the state.

Increased access to medical imaging through extended hours of operation after hours and on weekends will improve patient flow through emergency departments by reducing wait times for imaging examinations and interventions and improving timeliness of clinical advice needed to inform care delivery to patients. All HHSs have been engaged to provide submissions and meetings are being held with clinicians from HHSs.

General Practices, in identified areas, will be provided with funding in early 2024 to pilot Patient Care Facilitators. The nurse facilitators will liaise with and connect patients with their general practitioner shortly after discharge to facilitate appointments and ensure patients are connected with other community providers.