

Question on Notice

No. 1592

Asked on 30 November 2023

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Queensland Health Sleep Disorders Program—

Will the Minister clarify (a) the current wait time to access an appointment at each of the QHSD Prescriber Centres and (b) the current wait time to access equipment through the QHSDP equipment loan scheme?

ANSWER

Approximately one in ten Australians have a sleep disorder, costing the Australian economy an estimated \$51 billion annually.

The Queensland Health Sleep Disorders Program (QHSDP) is a statewide clinical scheme that manages the treatment of patients with sleep disorders. The program is administered by an executive committee comprising clinical directors, and senior scientific and nursing representatives from our nine QHSDP Prescriber Centres, as well as the Program Administrator.

The QHSDP service includes consultation with dedicated sleep medicine specialists, advanced sleep investigation and diagnostic tests, monitoring of patient treatment and adherence to therapy, long-term loan of CPAP devices to eligible patients, and patient education, support and follow-up.

Waiting times for the QHSDP vary from hospital to hospital and are based on medical and occupational priority. As the QHSDP is delivered locally, there is no central database of waiting times by facility.

In addition, the Miles Government is delivering a range of initiatives to ensure Queenslanders get the care they need sooner. For example, additional sleep clinics have commenced in the new Caboolture Satellite Hospital as an outreach of the TPCH Sleep Disorders Centre, while the RBWH has introduced longer and additional sleep clinic slots.

I am advised that there are no waiting periods to access equipment through the QHSDP equipment loan scheme, where eligibility criteria has been met and depending on staff availability.