

Question on Notice

No. 206

Asked on 16 March 2023

MS R BATES ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 983 of 2022—

Will the Minister advise how many patients were in hospital Emergency Departments for more than 24 hours before being discharged or admitted as an inpatient (reported separately by each hospital and each calendar month) from October 2022 to January 2023?

ANSWER

It must be recognised that any patient who has an emergency department stay for longer than 24 hours has been appropriately triaged and started receiving medical treatment in the emergency department. These patients would not be situated in a waiting room awaiting clinical care.

A patient may stay for 24 hours within the Emergency Department (ED) for a number of reasons. This may include patients with volatile clinical status requiring repeated adjustments to treatment interventions and clinical decision making around ongoing care needs and most appropriate disposition. There may be other factors including the requirement for a specific type of bed, for example telemetry, negative pressure, isolation, or mental health.

When patients do stay 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, an escalation process will occur to help facilitate the movement of the patient.

Queensland's emergency departments are leading the nation. ROGS data for financial year 2021/22 shows that Queensland had the second best performing emergency department in the country with 68 per cent of patients seen within the recommended time, second only to New South Wales who saw 77 per cent of patients in within the recommended time.

The most recent quarterly performance data shows that Queensland has now surpassed New South Wales, with Queensland seeing 72 per cent of patients in the recommended timeframes and New South Wales seeing 66.4 per cent of patients within the timeframes set out in ACEM's ATS tool.

This nation leading performance comes despite a significant increase in the most acute categories 1 –3 ED presentations, including a 12 per cent increase in the most urgent

category 1 patients, with 100 per cent of those patients being seen within the recommended two minute timeframe.

Queensland also had 1,321,049 patients present to public hospital emergency departments in the financial year to date (as at 31 January 2023), up 14,474 patients compared to the same period last year.

Despite leading the nation in ED seen in time performance, once a patient is admitted to the emergency department, it may take some time for them to be admitted into an inpatient bed.

In order to assist with patient flow, the Palaszczuk Government is investing in a variety of practical improvements to our health system, both immediate and long-term, that will assist our world class clinicians in providing the best possible care to Queensland patients.

That includes:

- Our record investment in 2,509 new beds through our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, including 289 beds being fast-tracked through the Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program;
- Embedding the Care4Qld investments on an ongoing basis, including the expanded QAS mental health co-responder model and Hospital in the Home models of care;
- Investing in the Long-Stay Rapid Response Program to ensure that long stay patients are able to attain support in the community, rather than staying hospital;
- Delivering Rapid Access Clinics across the State to prevent re-presentations and re-admissions to hospital;
- Providing care closer to home through our Satellite Hospital Program;
- Ensuring Statewide access to the Metro North Virtual ED;
- Making a record investment in mental health services; and
- Delivering on our election commitment to recruit 9,475 new health staff during this term of Government, with more than 17,000 having been recruited since 2015.

I am advised the number of patients that were in hospital EDs for more than 24 hours before being discharged or admitted, for the top 26 facilities, for the months October 2022 to January 2023 were as follows:

- Cairns – 5, 8, 3 and 1 respectively;
- Gladstone – 17, 22, 9 and 14 respectively;
- Rockhampton – 97, 112, 82 and 146 respectively;
- Queensland Children's – 4, 2, 3 and 0 respectively;
- Toowoomba – 4, 4, 3, 2 respectively;
- Gold Coast University – 85, 45, 57 and 81 respectively;
- Robina – 6, 4, 6 and 13 respectively;
- Mackay – 79, 78, 63 and 50 respectively;
- Mater Adult – 12, 4, 10 and 1 respectively;
- Caboolture – 41, 24, 50 and 44 respectively;
- Prince Charles – 7, 2, 3 and 2 respectively;

- Redcliffe – 2, 2, 11 and 5 respectively;
- Royal Brisbane and Women's – 16, 11, 7 and 3 respectively;
- Logan – 60, 70, 80 and 103 respectively;
- Princess Alexandra – 5, 4, 6 and 7 respectively;
- Queen Elizabeth II – 0, 9, 22 and 10 respectively;
- Redland – 86, 106, 149 and 86 respectively;
- Mount Isa – 25, 4, 5 and 4 respectively;
- Gympie – 11, 5, 5 and 10 respectively;
- Nambour – 1, 2, 2 and 0 respectively;
- Sunshine Coast University – 2, 2, 3 and 0 respectively;
- Townsville – 27, 7, 30 and 75 respectively;
- Ipswich – 95, 116, 104 and 132 respectively;
- Bundaberg – 124, 132, 154 and 102 respectively;
- Hervey Bay – 321, 229, 328 and 347 respectively;
- Maryborough – 33, 12, 45 and 32 respectively.