

## Question on Notice

No. 630

Asked on 23 May 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. 1204 of 2021—

Will the Minister provide for each hospital listed on the 'Queensland Reporting Hospitals' website for the months of May 2021, May 2022, February 2023, March 2023 and April 2023 (a) available beds, (b) available bed alternatives, (c) temporarily unavailable beds, (d) temporarily unavailable bed alternatives, (e) unfunded beds and (f) unfunded bed alternatives?

### ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government has a proud record of delivering the health services and infrastructure that Queenslanders need. We have delivered more than 1,500 beds since 2015, and have a plan to deliver almost 4,000 more over the next six years.

In response to a Question Without Notice on 15 June 2023, I noted that Queensland hospitals are funded for the activity performed, not on a per bed basis, which ensures that every patient who presents to a hospital is able to be cared for.

Due to the complexity of delivering healthcare, available bed numbers across Queensland public hospitals are a dynamic measure, and may fluctuate according to relative demand across the system.

The number of (a) available beds, (b) available bed alternatives, (c) temporarily unavailable beds, and (d) temporarily unavailable bed alternatives, as at May 2021, May 2022, February 2023, March 2023 and April 2023 for public acute reporting hospitals is as follows:

- May 2021 – 12,716
- May 2022 – 12,900
- February 2023 – 13,086
- March 2023 – 13,175
- April 2023 – 13,154

Bed numbers are as at the last Wednesday of the reference month.

The information collated is based on Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) definition of available beds and bed alternatives. That is, that the bed or bed alternative is staffed and available for patient care.

Hospitals manage their daily bed or bed alternative availability according to local service needs. As such, this number is not static and forms part of the complex management of health care service delivery.

Available beds for public hospitals are reported each year to the AIHW for publication as part of the 'MyHospitals' webpage and 'Hospital Resources' online publication.