

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 661**

**Asked on 24 May 2023**

**MR M HART** 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. 101 of 2023 and patients waiting for an initial service event in a Specialist Outpatient Clinic—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately by the 29 specialties listed on the Queensland Reporting Hospitals website and by Hospital and Health Service) as at 1 April 2023 (a) the total number of patients waiting for an initial service event in a Specialist Outpatient Clinic and (b) the number of patients who have not been seen within the clinically recommended time waiting for an initial service event in a Specialist Outpatient Clinic?

### **ANSWER**

Planned Care services across Queensland have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past three years. This has resulted from service restrictions related to public health measures and workforce impacts during the health system response to COVID-19.

As noted in the response to Question on Notice 101 of 2023, there has been a 55.8 per cent increase in specialist outpatient demand since 2016.

As we continue to learn to live with the pandemic, the number of Initial Service Events for specialist outpatients has increased. I am advised that for the financial year to date to March, there have been an additional 33,741 Initial Service Events compared to the same period last year.

When interrogating the data provided below, it is important to understand the unprecedented impact that COVID-19 had on Queensland's health system. It is almost without historical precedent.

The Queensland Audit Office noted the Palaszczuk Government's success in significantly reducing these wait lists through our Specialist Outpatient Strategy.

I am advised the tables below outline the Specialist Outpatient patients waiting, and patients who have not been seen within the clinically recommended timeframe, for an initial service event (long waits) as at 1 April 2023.

Table 1: QH Specialist Outpatient Waitlist by Specialty as at 1 April 2023

<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Total waitlist</b>	<b>Total long waits</b>
Cardiac Surgery	296	13
Cardiology	14,732	5,863
Dermatology	5,522	3,118
Diabetes	-	-
Ear Nose and Throat	33,848	15,079
Endocrinology	3,301	1,145
Gastroenterology	16,269	9,616
General Medicine	2,416	756
General Surgery	21,778	7,321
Geriatrics	1,697	745
Gynaecology	15,245	3,221
Medical Other	17,205	5,217
Nephrology	2,239	516
Neurology	8,567	3,475
Neurosurgery	4,141	1,949
Obstetrics	3,300	125
Oncology	1,130	117
Ophthalmology	27,644	15,917
Orthopaedic	38,613	15,348
Paediatric Medicine	15,133	4,705
Paediatric Surgery	2,918	987
Pain Management	3,656	652
Palliative Care	216	39
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	6,093	3,510
Respiratory	7,703	3,853
Rheumatology	5,188	2,615
Surgical Other	5,746	2,470
Urology	13,761	8,650
Vascular Surgery	3,340	1,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,697</b>	<b>118,093</b>

Table 2: Specialist Outpatient Waitlist by Hospital and Health Service as at 1 April 2023

<b>Hospital and Health Service</b>	<b>Total waitlist</b>	<b>Total long waits</b>
Cairns and Hinterland	21,142	10,393
Central Queensland	12,674	6,825
Children's Health Queensland	15,293	5,268
Darling Downs	9,533	2,791
Gold Coast	40,534	22,530
Mackay	10,391	4,824
Mater Health Service	9,998	908
Metro North	47,178	14,784
Metro South	53,115	26,676
North West	1,325	582

Sunshine Coast	21,484	9,368
Townsville	17,482	5,238
West Moreton	10,496	4,024
Wide Bay	11,052	3,882
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,697</b>	<b>118,093</b>

Source: Queensland Health, Specialist Outpatients Collection

Notes: All data is preliminary and subject to change. "-" indicates data not applicable.

Total waitlist by category is available on the Hospital Performance website (at Qld ie. Statewide and Facility level).