

## Question on Notice

No. 725

Asked on 13 June 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 Kingaroy Hospital and the transitioning of patients from their hospital bed to discharge—

Will the Minister advise if Queensland Health will provide funding to the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service for a 'Transit Care Hub' such as the one recently opened at the Mackay Base Hospital?

### ANSWER

The 2023-24 Budget includes a record \$24.1 billion investment in the health of Queenslanders. As part of this record investment, the Palaszczuk Government is delivering our \$764 million *Putting Patients First* plan.

*Putting Patients First* is focused on:

- Keeping Queenslanders out of hospital and providing alternatives to emergency departments;
- Supercharging virtual care;
- Strengthening the Queensland Ambulance Service;
- Investing in more frontline health workers; and,
- More beds for our growing population.

*Putting Patients First* includes \$15 million to expand transit hubs and discharge lounges across the state.

The funding will be directed to areas experiencing the greatest emergency department pressures and all Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) with Transfer Hubs/Lounges, including Darling Downs HHS, will be taken into consideration when determining the funding allocation.

I am advised that HHSs across Queensland have developed and implemented a range of Transit Hub and Discharge Lounge models to improve patient flow and increase emergency department and ward bed availability.

These models have been implemented based on local requirements and ensure patients receive safe and appropriate care in the right environment, while enabling inpatient beds to be available for acutely ill patients.

I am advised that the Darling Downs HHS currently operates a Transfer Lounge at Toowoomba Hospital on Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 5pm.

It is also relevant to note that the Palaszczuk Government recently delivered the \$92.5 million upgrade of Kingaroy Hospital, which includes an expanded emergency department, a tele-chemo unit, a new day surgery unit with state-of-the-art operating theatres, modern birthing suites and modern wards allowing better patient care and comfort.