

Question on Notice

No. 764

Asked on 14 June 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. 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 February 2023 to May 2023?

ANSWER

Any patient presenting to an Emergency Department (ED) will be assessed and appropriately triaged, depending on their condition.

For example, in the March 2023 Quarter, 100 per cent of the most serious patients presenting to our EDs were seen within two minutes.

In addition, between January and March of this year, there were more than 570,000 presentations to EDs across Queensland, and more than 70 per cent of those were treated within clinically recommended timeframes.

There are a number of reasons a patient may stay for 24 hours within the ED, including patients with volatile clinical status requiring repeated adjustments to treatment interventions and clinical decision making around ongoing care needs and most appropriate disposition. Patients may also require access to specialist clinicians or equipment, that would not be immediately available outside of the ED. For example, telemetry, negative pressure, isolation or mental health.

When patients are being treated 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, then an escalation process will occur to help facilitate the movement of the patient.

I am advised that where patients are receiving treatment in EDs, they are in designated treatment spaces.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reducing ED wait times and addressing the root issues. That is why the 2023-24 Budget includes the \$764 million *Putting Patients First* plan.

Putting Patients First is focused on five key areas:

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

I have been advised by the Department that the below lists the number of patients that were being treated in hospital EDs for more than 24 hours before being discharged or admitted from the months of February to May 2023.

- Cairns - 11, 14, five, 16 respectively, of a total 29,881 patients seen in that time;
- Gladstone - 11, 23, 40, 24 respectively, of a total 12,208 patients seen in that time;
- Rockhampton - 176, 211, 198, 218 respectively, of a total 17,695 patients seen in that time;
- Queensland Children's - two, five, one, one respectively, of a total 27,000 patients seen in that time;
- Toowoomba - five, six, 15, 37 respectively, of a total 22,325 patients seen in that time;
- Gold Coast University - 59, 66, 67, 102 respectively, of a total 41,684 patients seen in that time;
- Robina - 10, 20, 21, 17 respectively, of a total 20,921 patients seen in that time;
- Mackay - 78, 100, 122, 144 respectively, of a total 17,769 patients seen in that time;
- Mater Adult - nine, three, 10, three respectively, of a total 18,254 patients seen in that time;
- Caboolture - 29, 38, 66, 59 respectively, of a total 22,277 patients seen in that time;
- Prince Charles - three, zero, zero, zero respectively, of a total 39,674 patients seen in that time;
- Redcliffe – one, seven, seven, 20 respectively, of a total 23,455 patients seen in that time;
- Royal Brisbane & Women's - 17, 16, seven, 12 respectively of a total 29,202 patients seen in that time;
- Logan - 123, 156, 122, 182 respectively, of a total 36,985 patients seen in that time;
- Princess Alexandra - 17, 39, 35, 68 respectively of a total 22,433 patients seen in that time;
- Queen Elizabeth II - 29, 46, 22, 67 respectively, of a total 20,964 patients seen in that time;
- Redland - 111, 147, 112, 152 respectively, of a total 20,206 patients seen in that time;
- Mount Isa - six, 30, 13, 62 respectively, of a total 10,906 patients seen in that time;
- Gympie - nine, 17, one, 11 respectively, of a total 10,862 patients seen in that time;
- Nambour - zero, one, four, two respectively, of a total 12,323 patients seen in that time;

- Sunshine Coast University - zero, one, one, zero respectively, of a total 30,650 patients seen in that time;
- Townsville - 14, 44, 19, 21 respectively, of a total 33,432 patients seen in that time;
- Ipswich - 157, 192, 128, 137 respectively, of a total 26,962 patients seen in that time;
- Bundaberg - 79, 122, 115, 98 respectively, of a total 15,972 patients seen in that time;
- Hervey Bay - 260, 282, 268, 120 respectively, of a total 14,240 patients seen in that time;
- Maryborough - 25, 22, 12, eight respectively, of a total 8,366 patients seen in that time.