

Question on Notice

No. 792

Asked on 14 June 2023

MR M BOOTHMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will reference to Queensland Health's Monthly Activity Collection (MAC)—
Will the Minister detail as at 1 June for each year since 2015 (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service) (a) the number of contracted beds where Queensland doctors are providing the patient's care and (b) the number of contracted beds where Queensland doctors are not providing the patient's care?

ANSWER

Hospital and Health Services use 'contracted beds' from time to time due to the dynamic nature of service delivery needs and consideration for ongoing patient flow.

I am advised that 'contracted beds' include the following examples:

- Toowoomba Hospital contracts beds across two aged care facilities. For sub-acute patients that have ongoing and often significant care needs preventing their discharge from hospital, but don't need the level of acute care provided in a traditional hospital environment.
- Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital contracted beds as part of their COVID-19 response. However, these arrangements ceased in August 2022 as they were no longer required (but were in place at June 2022).
- Cairns Hospital had contracted beds (i.e. renal dialysis chairs and trolleys) for capacity reasons. These contracted resources were located at Cairns Private Hospital.

'Contracted beds' are only reported to the Monthly Activity Collection (MAC) if they are exclusively or predominantly used for admitted patient care. Therefore, treatment provided to patients in 'contracted beds' would be at the appropriate clinical level, whereby the patient would meet admission guidelines including a clinical decision to admit the patient by the treating medical officer.

I am further advised 'contracted beds' are only reported to the MAC if the patients are under the care of a Queensland Health medical officer/s, and these medical officers maintain the medical records of these Queensland Health patients.

| Contracted Beds | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hospital and Health Service | Jun-21 | Jun-22 |
| Cairns and Hinterland | 0 | 21 |
| Central Queensland | 0 | 0 |
| Central West | 0 | 0 |
| Children's Health Queensland | 0 | 0 |
| Darling Downs | 10 | 21 |
| Gold Coast | 0 | 0 |
| Mackay | 0 | 8 |
| Metro North | 0 | 17 |
| Metro South | 0 | 0 |
| North West | 0 | 0 |
| South West | 0 | 0 |
| Sunshine Coast | 0 | 0 |
| Torres and Cape | 0 | 0 |
| Townsville | 0 | 0 |
| West Moreton | 0 | 0 |
| Wide Bay | 0 | 8 |
| Queensland Total | 10 | 75 |

Notes:

1. Source: Monthly Activity Collection (MAC)
2. Contracted beds are the number of beds managed by the reporting hospital that are located at another hospital under contract arrangement.

Information prior to 2021 not available

In July 2020, the Statistical Services Branch enhanced the MAC bed reporting application to allow hospitals to report 'contracted beds'. Prior to this date, hospitals included 'contracted beds' in their routine reporting of overall beds data but these beds were not explicitly identified/segreated.

Therefore, reporting of 'contracted beds' prior to July 2020 is not possible without unreasonably diverting the use of Queensland Health resources.