

Question on Notice

No. 850

Asked on 16 June 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to specialist outpatient appointments—

Will the Minister advise the five longest patient waiting times (in days) for patients who have not had their appointment within the clinically recommended time (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service and specialist discipline) as at 1 June 2023?

ANSWER

Queensland Health publicly reports hospital performance on the Hospital Performance website. The website outlines a range of specialist outpatient information across multiple indicators.

As advised in response to Question on Notice 281 of 2022, it is not appropriate to provide the specific information sought by the Member for the following reasons:

- That one patient may be able to be identified within their community if their waiting time is exceptional, and they are in an area with small numbers of patients waiting for services.
- The *Queensland Information Privacy Act (2009)* outlines information privacy principles designed to protect the privacy of individuals and describes Queensland Health's obligation to use information about individuals only for relevant purposes. It is able to apply limits on information disclosure and is at risk of penalty for breaches. Publishing information on a cohort of one patient would represent an unacceptable risk.
- That one patient may be a statistical outlier, meaning their wait time may be remarkably different to other patients. This means their wait time is not indicative of most patients, and therefore not indicative of the performance of a Hospital and Health Service; and
- That one patient may have waited longer than other patients because of exceptional circumstances, such as they have other serious conditions or require a highly specialised procedure or care team.