

Question on Notice

No. 967

Asked on 24 August 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to the Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service—

Will the Minister advise (a) the estimated, and actual expenditure for the service per financial year since its inception, (b) the estimated and actual FTE count for the service per financial year since its inception, (c) the median waiting time for a patient referred to the service to receive their first appointment, (d) the number of patients currently on the waiting list for an appointment and (e) the number of patients currently waiting longer than clinically recommended?

ANSWER

The Queensland Department of Health in partnership with Health Consumers Queensland co-designed the Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service (QPMS) which commenced in April 2019. The Service is managed by the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service as a statewide service.

In response to the Member's questions, I am advised the following:

A. the estimated, and actual expenditure for the service per financial year since its inception

The Budgeted (annual spend estimates) and Expenditure recorded for each year since inception is provided below.

QPMS	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Budgeted (estimates)	\$1,717,157	\$2,476,703	\$5,739,321	\$5,959,125	\$5,754,448
Expenditure	\$651,396	\$1,771,565	\$3,977,320	\$4,621,000	\$4,868,945

The difference between the estimated and actual spend was significantly impacted by initial delays in recruiting appropriately skilled staff in the early years of the services and by ongoing COVID-19 impacts.

B. the estimated and actual FTE count for the service per financial year since its inception

The Budgeted (annual estimate), QPMS Clinic Actual FTE, and Total Actual FTE for each year since inception is provided below.

Note Total Actual FTE includes QPMS Clinic staff and theater staff, who are engaged for the purpose of performing pelvic mesh related surgeries.

QPMS	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Budgeted FTE	6.49	15.77	30.25	21.43	26.07
QPMS Clinic Actual FTE	3.78	10.1	11.97	11.38	10.37
Total Actual FTE	3.78	10.1	23.49	19.7	18.69

Staffing for the Queensland Pelvic Mesh Service Clinic has remained relatively stable over its lifespan.

Despite being significantly impacted by COVID-19 and workforce limitations, the service has successfully managed to provide services and reduce waiting times.

QPMS is actively recruiting additional FTE for the Clinic.

C. the median waiting time for a patient referred to the service to receive their first appointment

The median waiting time a patient referred to the service to their first appointment was 12 days for the period April 2019 to June 2023. This data is captured using the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service SMART referrals process which provides access to real-time information at any point in the referral pathway to better optimise the patient journey.

D. the number of patients currently on the waiting list for an appointment

On 29 August 2023, there were 12 patients waiting for their first appointment.

Six patients are classified as Category 2 and six patients are Category 3.

Any subsequent review appointments will have very little wait time, as these appointments are made with the Allied Health Service or Medical service and are all within clinically recommended wait times.

E. the number of patients currently waiting longer than clinically recommended

There are currently no long wait patients.