

Question on Notice

No. 991

Asked on 24 August 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Health's Monthly Activity Collection (MAC)—
Will the Minister detail as at 1 June 2023 (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 (HHSs) may need to 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 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.

In response to question (a) as at June 2023, Cairns and Hinterland HHS had 21 contracted beds; Darling Downs HHS had 20 contracted beds; Gold Coast HHS had 24 contracted beds and Mackay HHS had eight contracted beds.

It should be noted that 'contracted beds' which provide care to patients that are not under the care of Queensland Health medical officers are not reported to MAC, as patient care has been fully contracted out to another service provider. Therefore, it is not possible to answer question (b), all or in part, from MAC data.