

Question on Notice

No. 113

Asked on 15 February 2024

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

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland's current abortion rates—

Will the Minister advise what the annual abortion rate, including surgical and medical terminations, has been in Queensland since and including 2018 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring pregnant women and people can access information and the termination of pregnancy care that meets their needs. Every Queenslanders, regardless of where they live, deserves the right to safe and timely sexual and reproductive health care, and this includes the right to access safe and timely termination of pregnancy services.

As part of the Governments \$250 million new investment to support the \$1 Billion Queensland *Women and Girls Health Strategy 2023*, an initial investment of \$41.80 million over five years will support implementation of the Queensland *Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan 2032*. The Action Plan is the government's statement of a continued commitment to improve access to termination of pregnancy services for women and pregnant people. This Action Plan will build on the foundational work to date to undertake priority actions across three foundational areas to:

- support the community to understand their options and pathways to services.
- develop and support the health workforce across Queensland.
- develop and embed sustainable service models.

Our goal for this Action Plan is to reduce barriers for women and pregnant people accessing termination of pregnancy services, and allow them to access safe, high-quality, and timely care from trained health professionals.

For admitted patients in public and private facilities across Queensland for calendar years 2018 to 2022, the number of terminations of pregnancy are as follows:

In 2018, there were 9,309 termination events in an admitted patient setting. Then 9,496 in 2019; 9,035 in 2020; 8,806 in 2021 and 8,284 in 2022.

Data for the 2023 period are not yet available with data collation, validation and linking continuing in order to derive termination of pregnancy events from existing admitted patient and perinatal collections.