

Question on Notice

No. 119

Asked on 5 March 2024

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to Question on Notice No. 779 asked on 17 August 2022 in relation to the Kingaroy Hospital Short Stay Unit, and given the short stay unit remains closed— Will the Minister advise (a) why the short stay unit remains closed, (b) what planning has been undertaken to make the Kingaroy Hospital Short Stay unit operational and (c) how many patients have waited greater than 6 hours, 12 hours, 24 hours and 36 hours in the Kingaroy Hospital Emergency Department since January 2021 (reported separately by each category)?

ANSWER

- (a) I have been advised by Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service that at the time of the new build of Kingaroy Hospital, modelling indicated a short stay unit would not need to be implemented immediately, however, was part of future service planning and provision for the Hospital.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated repercussions, along with migration to regional Queensland and challenges in primary care have resulted in the consideration for a short stay unit within Kingaroy Hospital being brought forward.

- (b) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service reviewed the Kingaroy Hospital emergency presentations which included the presentation volume and triage categorisation, as per the Australasian Triage Categorisation Scale. The analysis of the presentations and consideration of various models of care has been utilised to determine the most suitable model for the short stay unit at Kingaroy Hospital.

Short stay units or clinical decision units operate effectively when there are solid foundations across the patient's care journey.

Kingaroy Hospital has focused on recruiting to critical vacancies across several areas of the hospital to ensure adequately skilled and experienced staff are embedded within the hospital to support effective operationalisation of any new models of care.

Kingaroy Hospital are now undergoing the annual nursing Business Planning Framework (BPF) to ensure appropriate resources are allocated to support the opening of the Short Stay Unit in the 2024-25 financial year.

- (c) Below table represents the patients who have waited greater than 6 hours, 12 hours, 24 hours and 36 hours in the Kingaroy Hospital Emergency Department since January 2021 (reported separately by each category). Please note that the below table represents the length of time patients have waited to be seen, which is reflective of the question asked.

Emergency Department Waiting Times (1 January 2021 to 31 January 2024)

Emergency Waiting Time	No of Presentations	Percentage
> 36 hours	-	-
> 24 hours <= 36 hours	-	-
> 12 hours <= 24 hours	-	-
> 6 hours <= 12 hours	170	0.25%
<= 6 hours	69,135	99.75%
Total	69,305	100.00%

Source: Emergency Data Collection (EDC) last updated 12/02/2024.