

Question on Notice

No. 1239

Asked on 12 December 2024

MS B ASIF ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise in table format, the number of youth prisoners presenting with (a) injuries, (b) chronic conditions and (c) mental health concerns?

ANSWER

Queensland has three youth detention centers – Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (162 beds) and West Moreton Youth Detention Centre (32 beds) at Wacol and Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (112 beds) in Townsville.

West Moreton and Townsville Hospital and Health Services (HHS) provide nursing, medical and dental care to all young people requiring healthcare in the three youth detention centres. Children's Health Queensland and Townsville HHSs provide mental health care.

Young people are seen by medical and nursing staff on admission. All care and treatment provided is in accordance with the individual health care needs of the young person.

HHSs do not record specific data of young people who present with injuries or chronic conditions. Time intensive medical record reviews and audit would be required for all young people receiving healthcare in youth detention centres to capture the information requested. To provide this data would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Nursing services across the three youth detention centres provide an average of 4,100 occasions of service per month, with an average of 183 medical occasions of service.

From 1 January to 31 October 2024, 574 young people across the three youth detention centres were referred for mental health assessment with 219 young people treated for mental health conditions.