

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 188**

**Asked on 6 March 2024**

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

### **QUESTION**

Will the Minister advise for the December 2023 quarter (reported by Category and for each Hospital and Health Service and Statewide (Queensland Reporting Hospitals)), the total number of Oncology outpatients (a) seen and (b) waiting for an appointment?

### **ANSWER**

Queensland's health system, like health systems across the world, is experiencing a range of pressures, including a global workforce shortage and rapid population growth leading to increased demand.

Demand for Oncology outpatients in the December 2023 quarter has increased by 3.6 per cent compared to the same time last year, with approximately 6,450 referrals received.

This increase in demand has been addressed by an increase in service delivery; with 6,449 initial service events delivered in the December 2023 quarter, an increase of 315 (5.1 per cent) on the prior year quarter. This has meant that the median time waiting to be seen has remained at just 12 days.

I am also advised that in the December 2023 quarter, 91.2 per cent of patients were seen within clinically recommended timeframes, which is a testament to the hard work of our amazing frontline clinicians.

The below list details the number of Category 1, Category 2, and Category 3 Oncology outpatients, respectively, seen in the December 2023 quarter:

- Cairns and Hinterland – 330, 37, 8
- Central Queensland – 253, 5, zero
- Children's Health Queensland – 78, one, one
- Darling Downs – 165, 20, zero
- Gold Coast – 720, 39, one
- Mackay – 79, 5, zero
- Mater Health Service – 311, 19, 12
- Metro North – 1,484, 169, 28
- Metro South – 1,470, 45, 18
- Sunshine Coast – 1,013, 17, one
- Townsville – 10, seven, zero
- West Moreton – 95, seven, one
- Statewide – 6,008, 371, 70

The below list details the number of Oncology waiting for an appointment as at 1 January 2024, by Category respectively:

- Cairns and Hinterland – 76, 38, 9
- Central Queensland – 55, 13, 8
- Children's Health Queensland – 13, 5, 1
- Darling Downs – 23, 2, 0
- Gold Coast – 130, 28, 2
- Mackay – 38, 3, 3
- Mater Health Service – 28, 23, 8
- Metro North – 305, 81, 47
- Metro South – 182, 14, 15
- Sunshine Coast – 152, 12, 0
- Townsville – 2, 3, 0
- West Moreton – 13, 3, 1
- Statewide – 1,017, 225, 94