

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 264**

**Asked on 19 March 2024**

**MS R BATES** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### **QUESTION**

With reference to elective surgeries undertaken across Queensland Health facilities and Queensland Health's Elective Surgery Services Implementation Standard—  
Will the Minister advise (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service) the number of hospital-initiated cancellations for December 2023, January 2024 and February 2024 (reported separately by month)?

### **ANSWER**

Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to elective surgery delivery, despite growing demand.

Data shows elective surgeries continue to increase across the state, jumping 6.4 per cent above pre-COVID levels in December 2023 and 4.8 per cent above the previous December quarter.

In the December Quarter, our hospitals delivered 1,674 more elective surgeries and 12,008 more initial specialist outpatient appointments than the same quarter in 2022 – the highest number delivered in a December Quarter in Queensland's history.

This is despite a 3 per cent increase in the number of patient referrals.

Total long waits also dropped by an enormous 43 per cent from the beginning of 2023 to the end of the year.

Furthermore, more than 90 per cent of people ready for elective surgery are waiting within the clinically recommended timeframes.

I am advised that there are a number of reasons a hospital may cancel an elective surgery procedure, including emergency and urgent cases taking priority, doctors electing not to perform the case, and hospital initiated public health alerts. Where this happens, hospitals work with patients to reschedule their procedure.

I am advised that the below list details the number of hospital-initiated cancellations, where the cancellation was initiated on or after the booked day of surgery, by calendar month December 2023 to February 2024 respectively.

Cairns and Hinterland – 21, 31, 55, of a total 1,572 surgeries delivered  
Central Queensland – 3, 1, 8, of a total 826 surgeries delivered  
Central West – 1, 0, 0, of a total 22 surgeries delivered

Children's Health Queensland – 4, 7, 19, of a total 2,038 surgeries delivered  
Darling Downs – 9, 16, 13, of a total 1,499 surgeries delivered  
Gold Coast – 44, 51, 42, of a total 4,287 surgeries delivered  
Mackay – 20, 24, 12, of a total 717 surgeries delivered  
Metro North – 21, 31, 44, of a total 7,213 surgeries delivered  
Metro South – 63, 60, 134, of a total 5,867 surgeries delivered  
North West – 0, 0, 0, of a total 132 surgeries delivered  
South West – 0, 0, 0, of a total 239 surgeries delivered  
Sunshine Coast – 28, 24, 25, of a total 3,328 surgeries delivered  
Torres and Cape – 0, 2, 0, of a total 42 surgeries delivered  
Townsville – 39, 22, 51, of a total 1,868 surgeries delivered  
West Moreton – 4, 9, 12, of a total 926 surgeries delivered  
Wide Bay – 8, 7, 5, of a total 1,178 surgeries delivered

I am advised that, in the same period, there were 1,130 surgeries cancelled by patients on or after the booked day of surgery.