

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 293**

**Asked on 20 March 2024**

**DR M ROBINSON** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### **QUESTION**

Will the Minister advise (a) the current wait times at the Redland Hospital for specialist appointments, including neurology and oncology and (b) the number of patients on the respective lists?

### **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.

At Redland Hospital alone, demand for specialist outpatient appointments has increased by 29 per cent compared to the same time last year.

Despite this demand, we are leading the nation on planned care delivery, and continue to deliver record numbers of appointments for Queenslanders.

I am advised that, as at 1 January 2024, there were 4,927 patients waiting for a specialist outpatient initial service event at Redland Hospital. Patients currently ready for care had been waiting an average of 155 days, improving by six days on the same time last year.

In promising news for people in the Redlands, the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended has reduced by 15 per cent over the last year.

As at 1 January 2024, there were 101 neurology patients waiting for a specialist outpatient initial service event falling from 250 patients at the same time last year. There has been a significant improvement in the number of long wait patients, with only 17 patients waiting longer than clinically recommended at 1 January 2024, down from 141 as at 1 January 2023. Patients currently ready for care had been waiting an average of 112 days, improving on the 272 days reported at the same time last year.

I am informed that as at 1 January 2024 there were no oncology patients currently awaiting a specialist outpatient initial service event at Redland Hospital.

These fantastic results are thanks to the hard work of our amazing frontline clinicians, and the investments being made by the Miles Government, including our \$224 million investment to deliver 50,000 additional specialist outpatient appointments and elective surgeries.