

Question on Notice

No. 335

Asked on 21 March 2024

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide the average length of stay in emergency departments for each of Queensland's 26 major reporting hospitals for (a) November 2023, (b) December 2023, (c) January 2024 and (d) February 2024?

ANSWER

Queensland's health system, like health systems across the world, is under immense pressure. In 2023, our emergency departments saw a record 2.31 million patients – approximately 30 per cent higher than in 2015.

And we aren't just seeing more patients, we're seeing sicker patients and more patients arriving by ambulance. Ambulance arrivals have increased by almost 40 per cent since 2015, and Category 1 and 2 presentations have increased by more than 60 per cent.

But despite this pressure, our hospitals are continuing to perform well, thanks to the investments made by the Miles Government, and the hard work of our amazing frontline doctors and nurses.

Across Queensland in the December 2023 quarter, 74 per cent of patients were seen within clinically recommended timeframes – an increase of 4.5 per cent on the same time the previous year. And 100 per cent of the most urgent patients are seen immediately.

In addition, our EDs have a median wait time of just 15 minutes – four minutes lower than in 2015.

A patient's length of stay at an emergency department is defined as the time difference between the patient's arrival to an emergency department and the time of their physical departure from the emergency department (ED). This period includes time spent receiving treatment, and time in which the patient is waiting to be discharged or admitted as an inpatient following treatment completion.

As people are presenting with more complex health conditions, they are needing to spend longer in the ED receiving treatment, but we are seeing emergency length of stay hold steady at 61.6 per cent.

The below list notes the average emergency department length of stay (ELOS) in minutes for the 26 major reporting facilities between November 2023 and December 2023, respectively.

Data for January and February 2024 will be released as part of the March 2024 quarter hospital performance data.

- Bundaberg – 344, 372
- Caboolture – 393, 404
- Cairns – 290, 289
- Gladstone – 271, 235
- Gold Coast University – 346, 355
- Gympie – 223, 227
- Hervey Bay – 442, 442
- Ipswich – 390, 340
- Logan – 311, 301
- Mackay – 332, 327
- Maryborough – 232, 248
- Mater Adult – 312, 306
- Mount Isa – 189, 164
- Nambour – 264, 255
- Prince Charles – 231, 240
- Princess Alexandra – 420, 409
- Queen Elizabeth II – 333, 323
- Queensland Children's – 217, 216
- Redcliffe – 338, 333
- Redland – 323, 306
- Robina – 291, 316
- Rockhampton – 419, 365
- Royal Brisbane & Women's – 325, 300
- Sunshine Coast University – 306, 285
- Toowoomba – 287, 291
- Townsville – 314, 280

Source: Queensland Health, Emergency Data Collection (EDC), 13/03/2024