

Question on Notice

No. 692

Asked on 23 May 2024

MR J KRAUSE ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 81 of 2023 and Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Key Performance Indicators as outlined in HHS service agreements— Will the Minister provide the five longest times a patient faced whose 'Emergency Department stay was greater than 24 hours' at each of Queensland's 26 reporting hospitals (reported separately by Hospital and Health Service) for (a) January 2024, (b) February 2024, (c) March 2024 and (d) April 2024?

ANSWER

Queensland's health system, like systems across the world, is facing a range of increasing pressures, from record demand to a global workforce shortage.

But in spite of those pressures, and thanks to the hard work of our frontline staff, we continue to perform well.

Data recently released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and published on our Hospital Performance Reporting website, shows that Queensland continues to outperform other states and territories.

Across 2022-23 Financial Year, Queensland had the second lowest median wait time to treatment at 18 minutes, and the second highest rate of patients seen within clinically recommended timeframes at 67 per cent.

And in very promising news, performance in the March 2024 Quarter is even better, with a median wait time of 16 minutes, and 71.7 per cent of patients seen within clinically recommended timeframes.

Whilst best endeavors are made to limit data entry issues, where they do occur, they may result in the calculation of an Emergency Department (ED) Length of Stay longer than the length of stay. Prior to data being published on a quarterly basis, it is subject to data quality activities, tools and methodologies, including the data being aggregated and validated. Aggregation ensures the integrity of the data, and that it provides an overview on the performance of the system.

I am advised that as this question is requesting data on individual ED presentations "the five longest times greater than 24 hours" this would require each individual response to be verified by front line health staff at each of the 26 reporting hospitals and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.