

Question on Notice

No. 698

Asked on 23 May 2024

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

QUESTION

With reference to the Ministerial Statement made on 20 October 2022 in relation to the CT scanner installed at the Robina Hospital—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately by calendar month from October 2022 to present), (a) the number of scans the machine has undertaken and (b) the quantum of funding provided to run the machine?

ANSWER

Like many healthcare services across the world, Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service has faced shortages in the medical imaging workforce. These shortages have impacted the ramping up of services from the second CT scanner. While recruitment has been undertaken, partnerships with third-party suppliers have been established to manage demand and reduce risks to patients.

Since its delivery, the second CT scanner has provided back-up for the primary CT scanner, ensuring continuation of the medical imaging service in the event of system down-time. This has reduced the need to transfer patients and prevented disruptions to the provision of clinical care in the emergency department and inpatient areas.

I am advised the second CT scanner is currently operating five afternoons per week and currently performs 20 – 25 appointments per week. The increase in urgent outpatient appointments has reduced waitlists and increased discharges from the Emergency Department.

I am advised the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service has recently successfully recruited additional medical imaging staff and the second CT scanner. From July 2024, the hours of operation will be Monday to Friday from 8am until 5pm with access overnight, including a 24/7 on-call night shift radiographer onsite. This is expected to increase to over 2,000 CT outpatient appointments annually.

(a)

I am advised by the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service that to count the number of scans separately for each CT scanner would be resource-intensive and is an unreasonable diversion of staff who support the delivery of clinical care. Consequently, the data for both scanners has been provided below.

Total CT Scans Robina Hospital - October 2022 to May 2024 – 31,396

2022

October - 1,525
November - 1,537
December - 1,571

2023

January - 1,668
February - 1,452
March - 1,635
April - 1,540
May - 1,577
June - 1,391
July - 1,446
August - 1,463
September - 1,541
October - 1,584
November - 1,529
December - 1,507

2024

January - 1,628
February - 1,602
March - 1,732
April - 1,627
May - 1,841

(b)

I am advised by the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service that budgets are not managed at an individual device level and therefore cannot be reported separately. Consequently, the budget figures provided below are for the entire Robina Radiology Department.

Total Radiology Budget - Robina Hospital FY2023 – Total \$11,201,121

October 2022 - \$1,107,985
November 2022 - \$1,107,426
December 2022 - \$1,266,702
January 2023 - \$1,176,851
February 2023 - \$1,035,301
March 2023 - \$1,194,640
April 2023 - \$1,207,086
May 2023 - \$1,285,154
June 2023 - \$1,819,976

Total Radiology Budget - Robina Hospital FY2024 (to May) – Total \$15,217,697

July 2023 - \$1,219,493

August 2023 - \$1,240,527
September 2023 - \$1,247,343
October 2023 - \$1,285,320
November 2023 - \$1,337,086
December 2023 - \$1,373,271
January 2024 - \$1,396,511
February 2024 - \$1,456,585
March 2024 - \$1,452,267
April 2024 - \$1,593,721
May 2024 - \$1,615,573