

Question on Notice

No. 780

Asked on 12 June 2024

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

QUESTION

With reference to patient discharges at Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba Hospitals—

Will the Minister advise the number of patient discharges per year, (reported separately by patient postcode and discharge time by hour block and by year), for 2022 to 2024 to date?

ANSWER

The Miles Government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders can access worldclass health care no matter where they live.

We are investing in whole of hospital strategies focused on improving patient flow. As part of the 2024-25 Budget, \$1.14 billion will be invested to further enhance the *Putting Patients First* plan.

The *Putting Patients First* plan 2024-25 builds on the \$764 million invested in 2023-24 through new initiatives that address emerging healthcare challenges, previously announced projects to increase capacity, and direct resources to critical areas within the healthcare system.

These programs make significant and targeted investments to improve the flow of patients through hospitals by:

- increasing the capacity of the Queensland Ambulance Service, with new ambulance stations, new ambulance vehicles and more paramedics;
- operating Urgent Care Clinics, Rapid Access Services, Satellite Hospitals and Mental Health Co-Responder models that provide safe and appropriate care to patients in alternative settings and reduce Emergency Department (ED) presentations;
- increasing the front-line workforce, including Mental Health clinicians, Emergency Department Medical and Flow Commanders, Waiting Room Nurses, Access Nurses and Transfer Initiative Nurses who provide faster access to care in the ED;
- improving access to more beds including hospital expansions, transit lounge and short stay unit expansions, as well as Allied Health led discharge support and extended hours, all of which will provide additional physical hospital capacity to meet the demand for inpatient care;
- improving access to more appropriate beds for aged care and NDIS patients; and
- expanding Rapid Access Services, Surgical Assessment Units and hours of operation for medical imaging to further improve patient flows within the ED.

I am advised that to extract, collate and present the level of detail requested in the Member's question would require an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.