

Question on Notice

No. 873

Asked on 20 August 2024

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

QUESTION

With reference to Kingaroy Hospital—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of code black emergency codes issued from 2019 until current (reported separately by year), (b) if there is permanent security within the Emergency Department and (c) the security arrangements for the whole of the Hospital?

ANSWER

The Miles Government has invested almost \$38 million over four years in occupational violence prevention and security measures as part of a record \$28.9 billion health budget in 2024-25.

This includes hiring an additional 70 security officers and 12 ambassadors, providing more CCTV and fixed and personal duress alarms in high-risk areas, and ensuring all security staff have body-worn cameras. In addition, Queensland Health will continue to expand the successful ambassador program and roll out enhanced training for security and ambassador staff.

Key initiatives will also be introduced to make it easier for frontline healthcare workers to flag occupational violence incidents and personal threats via a streamlined escalation pathway, including the standardised reporting of Code Black incidents.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service will also benefit from the development of a new statewide standard to ensure a consistent and appropriate level of personal protective equipment, for security officers to keep staff, themselves, patients and their families safe.

(a) the number of code black emergency codes issued from 2019 until current (reported separately by year)

I am advised that information related to code blacks is not collected centrally by the Department of Health. I am further advised that the recording and reporting of code blacks may vary within individual Hospital and Health Service facilities, e.g. a process for a larger facility with security personnel will be different to a smaller rural facility.

(b) if there is permanent security within the Emergency Department

Kingaroy Hospital has an ongoing 24/7 whole of hospital security presence on site. In addition, the Kingaroy Hospital has an Ambassador stationed in the hospital's

Emergency Department to proactively maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone at the facility.

(c) the security arrangements for the whole of the Hospital

There is an ongoing 24/7 whole of hospital security presence on site to ensure the safety of staff and patients.

In the event of a Code Black, Kingaroy Hospital has emergency response and lockdown protocols with escalation pathways to the Queensland Police Service for a tertiary level emergency response.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service continually assesses how it can have an increased presence of Security Officers and Ambassadors on the ground and remains involved in statewide consultation with the Department of Health regarding potential opportunities to support security resourcing.