

## Question on Notice

No. 894

Asked on 20 August 2024

**DR A MACMAHON** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### QUESTION

With reference to the Category 2 (90-day) waiting list for elective surgery in the Metro South Hospital and Health Service region—

Will the Minister advise when additional tests and consultations are required for a patient who is on the category 2 waitlist, what consideration has been given to expediting these so that they do not have the effect of increasing the wait time far beyond the intended 90 days?

### ANSWER

Queensland's health system is delivering more elective surgeries than ever before.

In the June 2024 quarter, the Metro South Hospital and Health Service (MSHHS) delivered more than 6,700 surgeries, a 6.5 per cent increase on the same time last year. And impressively, 78.4 per cent of surgeries were delivered within clinically recommended timeframes, representing a 3.8 percentage point increase.

This fantastic performance has seen the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended reduce by more than 90 per cent. That's more than 1,250 Queenslanders who've gotten the surgeries they need.

In September 2023, I announced a \$224 million investment to deliver more specialist appointments and more surgeries across Queensland. This investment has been boosted by a further \$98.6 million through *Putting Patients First 2024-25* to continue this work.

This investment will focus on increasing hospital capacity to further reduce long waits for outpatients, elective surgery, and gastroenterology services.

In addition, Surgery Connect enables public hospital patients to have surgery at a private hospital, by leveraging existing capacity within the private sector. This nation-leading program is expected to deliver approximately 1,263 surgeries across the MSHHS in collaboration with private providers.

I am advised that elective surgery in all Queensland public Hospital and Health Services is booked according to the Elective Surgery Services Implementation Standard (the Standard).

Under the Standard, patients may only be registered on a waiting list if they are currently ready for surgery or will be ready for surgery within a specified period.

Patients who are on the waitlist and are ready for surgery regularly undergo pre-admission tests and consultations and are managed by their clinical team to ensure no unnecessary delays to their procedures.

In addition, if a patient who is waiting for surgery feels that their condition is deteriorating, they may wish to speak with their treating General Practitioner, who can seek a review of the patient's clinical categorisation.