

Question on Notice

No. 924

Asked on 21 August 2024

MR B HEAD 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. 378 of 2024—

Will the Minister advise the total number of patient air transfers between hospitals and other health facilities, including Multi-Purpose Hospital Services and nurse only facilities since 2017 (reported separately by code, transit company, year and by hospital across the state)?

ANSWER

Multiple aeromedical providers support Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Service in coordinating patient transfers including Babcock, Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service, Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service, LifeFlight, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Queensland Government Air and Aspen.

Between 2017 and 30 June 2024, I am advised over 100,000 patients were transferred between more than 230 hospitals (public and private), health facilities (including aged care facilities and primary healthcare centres) and multi-purpose health services, in Queensland.

But we know that patients shouldn't be relocated if they don't have to be, which is why we're investing in technology to keep Queenslanders in their hometowns, where it's safe to do so.

For the past 10 years, Retrieval Services Queensland has been delivering telehealth services, enabling high-level clinical advice and support to be provided to clinicians working in our rural and remote hospitals.

A hardworking team of Clinical Nurses, Senior Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, and Emergency Physicians, provide virtual support to 125 facilities across the state through high-definition videoconferencing which allows clinicians to feel like they're working in the same room.

In 2023, approximately 4,350 patients were treated using telehealth consultation services, and over 90 per cent of patients were able to avoid aeromedical transfers and were able to stay in their communities.

The Member's request involves multiple data sources and requires a manual validation and analysis of over 100,000 events. 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 Retrieval Services Queensland's resources.