

Question on Notice

No. 928

Asked on 21 August 2024

MR J LISTER 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. 478 of 2024 and the 'Process for Ministerial approval for maternity service changes' and Queensland Health's Clinical Services Capability Framework—

Will the Minister provide (reported separately by Queensland Health facility) (a) the number of notifications received by the department in relation to any suspension of a maternity service from 14 July 2024 and (b) the total number of days those services in part (a) were suspended?

ANSWER

In facilities where it is not safe to birth due to staffing or upgrade works being completed on the birthing suites – plans are put in place to support women to birth at alternative locations. Those plans are communicated to expectant parents and support services and expectant parents are supported to have a safe birthing experience.

Between 14 July 2024 to 21 August 2024, the Department of Health has received a total of six temporary change notifications for maternity services under the Clinical Services Capability Framework.

Of the temporary change notifications, five were from Beaudesert Hospital relating to four staffing issues (overnight due to emergent leave) and one due to electrical maintenance (duration one hour to allow works). Beaudesert hospital has employed an additional 7.5 full time equivalent Principal House Officers / Registrars between February and August 2024 and successfully recruited to vacant Senior Medical Officer roles to support the delivery of safe services.

Medical officer emergent sick leave in August 2024 is the highest experienced in Beaudesert in the past 12 months. This has resulted in a number of diversions due to change in CSCF to support safe clinical care overnight.

Logan and Beaudesert Executive are investigating coverage of emergent leave for Beaudesert Hospital, including medical reliever options to support service continuity.

The remaining temporary change notification was from Muttaborra Primary Health Centre due to staffing issues.

There were no permanent suspensions. All notifications were for temporary suspension, with five occurring for less than 24 hours.

Table 1: Data is relevant from 14 July 2024 to 21 August 2024

Facility	Total notifications received	Number of closures that were less than 24 hours	Total days maternity services were temporarily suspended
Muttaborra Primary Health Centre	1	Nil	2 days, 3 hours, 30 minutes
Beautesert Hospital	5	5	2.8 days (67 hours)