

Question on Notice

No. 952

Asked on 22 August 2024

MS R BATES ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to patients waiting for an initial service event in a Specialist Outpatient Clinic—

Will the Minister advise for each Hospital and Health Service (reported separately by medical specialty), as at 1 April 2024 the number of patients (a) waiting for an initial service event in a Specialist Outpatient Clinic and (b) who have not been seen within the clinically recommended time waiting for an initial service event in a Specialist Outpatient Clinic?

ANSWER

Queensland's health system, like health systems across the world, is experiencing a range of pressures, including a global workforce shortage and rapid population growth leading to increased demand.

Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, demand for specialist outpatient appointments increased by 8.7 per cent compared to last year, with approximately 745,000 referrals received.

But service delivery is also increasing, with over 735,000 initial service events delivered in the financial year, an increase of almost 59,000 appointments compared to the previous financial year, and more than 62,000 more than pre-COVID.

In addition, across the state, the number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended has reduced by over two per cent compared to last year.

I refer the Member to my response to Question on Notice 629 of 2024 for the data requested.