

Question on Notice

No. 1514

Asked on 10 December 2025

MRS M NIGHTINGALE ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise, between 1 July 2025 to 8 December 2025 (inclusive) (or closest reportable dates) (a) how many times each Hospital and Health Service (HHS) and corresponding hospitals did not receive activity-based patient funding for patients that stayed in an Emergency Department for more than 24 hours and (b) the corresponding dollar value figure the HHS and hospitals did not receive as a result (in table format, with HHS and its hospital in a sub-grid below the HHS on the Y-axis and number of patients and dollar figures reported separately by months on the X-Axis, including separating these figures to align with HHS and their hospitals)?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government recognises the significant clinical evidence demonstrating a deterioration in patient safety following a prolonged stay in the emergency department. In fact, the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine says 24 hours stays in an emergency department should be “a never event”. To support improvements to patient safety, the mandate for Hospital and Health Services (HHS) to report risk to patients through measurements developed in consultation with clinicians and stakeholders has been incorporated into the 2025-26 Service Agreements.

Since the 24-hour Directive was implemented, there has been a significant reduction in the risk to patient safety. In the most recent data available, there were 1,268 patients in an emergency department for longer than 24 hours compared to 1,801, in the same time period in 2024. This amounts to a 29.5 per cent reduction demonstrating the clear benefit of this new Directive.

Based on data between 1 July 2025 and 30 October 2025, no Hospital and Health Service has had its funding adjusted.