

Question on Notice

No. 916

Asked on 26 August 2025

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Toowong Private Hospital, which is now closed and under administration—

Will the Minister advise (a) the total expenditure and number of bed days purchased by Queensland Health to create additional capacity at Toowong Private Hospital, in each of the following financial years (i) 2020-21, (ii) 2021-22, (iii) 2022-23, (iv) 2023-24, (v) 2024-25, (b) if the government has requested or received any advice regarding the likely cost to buy the Toowong Private Hospital as a going concern and (c) if the government has requested or received advice regarding compulsory acquisition of the Toowong Private Hospital site?

ANSWER

The private health sector in Australia faces ongoing viability challenges. This is acknowledged in the Private Hospital Financial Sustainability Study (2024) for the Australian Private Hospitals Association, which highlighted the declining financial sustainability in private hospitals due to rising costs and inadequate insurance rebates.

When asked on ABC Radio Brisbane about Toowong Private Hospital closing, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stated, in part, “quite clearly the health insurers need to pay additional money for the private health care that’s provided, and that is creating an issue across the board.”

I am advised that public patients have not been treated in Toowong Private Hospital since 2022-23. The table below shows the total episodes of admitted patient care for publicly funded patients at Toowong Private Hospital. I am advised the expenditure for these episodes of care is not in an easily retrievable format and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Episodes of care	15	23	4	-	-	42

Data for patients admitted to hospital are sourced from the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection. An episode of admitted patient care is counted as publicly funded when the episode has been contracted by a public hospital, a Hospital and Health Service or the Queensland Department of Health.

The Toowong Private Hospital site was not considered suitable for public sector acquisition. Public patients have not been treated at the facility since the pandemic. I am advised that the facility would require significant refurbishment to meet contemporary clinical standards and the complex needs of public mental health patients, including older patients with co-morbidities.