

Question on Notice

No. 362

Asked on 21 April 2026

DR B O'SHEA ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise for the 2024 and 2025 calendar years (reported separately by year) (a) the number of flu-related deaths reported in Queensland, (b) the number of people hospitalised with influenza and (c) the percentage of those in (a) and (b) that had not received an influenza vaccination in the preceding 12 months?

ANSWER

I am advised that influenza activity varies from year to year for a variety of factors including circulating strains.

Australia experienced a significant increase in influenza cases, hospitalisations, and flu-related deaths in 2025 compared to 2024.

In Queensland, I am advised that according to Queensland Health surveillance data, in 2024 there were 198 flu-related deaths reported (71% unvaccinated), compared to 314 in 2025 (63% unvaccinated).

It is noted that data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show that the number of flu-related deaths reported in Queensland increased by approximately 66% in 2025 compared to 2024. This is lower than the 80% average increase in flu-related deaths experienced across Australia, and the second lowest increase compared to other jurisdictions.

Victoria experienced approximately 88% more flu-related deaths, while Western Australia reported approximately 174% more flu-related deaths.

I am further advised that Queensland Health surveillance data show that 7,017 flu-related hospitalised cases were reported in 2024 (79% unvaccinated), compared to 9,688 in 2025 (73% unvaccinated).

Additional information on certified causes of death, including due to influenza and other acute respiratory illnesses is publicly available online at www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death.