

Question on Notice

No. 417

Asked on 22 April 2026

MR J KELLY ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to concerns of bed block relating to elderly patients waiting for transfers to nursing home facilities—

Will the Minister provide a list of external facilities contracted by each HHS to take on the overflow of bed block patients (as at most recent reportable date and reported separately by HHS)?

ANSWER

The number of long-stay patients in Queensland's public hospitals has almost tripled since May 2022, as a result of the Federal Government's underinvestment in aged care and NDIS supports.

The latest Federal Budget has abandoned these Stranded Australians stuck in our hospital beds by failing to provide sufficient funding for the specialised care patients languishing in our hospital beds need.

Current projections are that Queensland alone will require a further 30,000 aged-care beds within the next decade but only 5,000 beds per annum have been offered by the Federal Labor Government across the entire nation.

The challenge of a rapidly growing number of Stranded Australians in our hospital beds awaiting aged care or NDIS supports, coupled with a decade of failure to deliver the new hospital beds that Queensland needs has resulted in significant strain on our health system.

The Crisafulli Government's 2025-26 Budget invested \$581.4 million over 2 years to stabilise bed capacity to improve patient flow including continued access to 515 beds across the health system, necessitated by the former government's inability to plan or bring new hospital infrastructure online.

I refer the Member to correspondence dated 10 April 2026 and 6 May 2026 from the Director-General of Queensland Health to the Chair of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, available online at documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/HEIC-AF26/PAB-37D3/Questions%20%E2%80%93%20Queensland%20Health,%2010%20April%202026.pdf

and documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/HEIC-AF26/PAB-37D3/Questions%20-%20Queensland%20Health,%2006%20May%202026.pdf.