

Question on Notice

No. 424

Asked on 22 April 2026

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to patients facing up to nine months wait for open-heart surgery, 18 months for TAVI procedures and over 600 patients annually redirected from Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Wide Bay to hospitals at, or nearing, capacity in Brisbane—

Will the Minister advise whether public sector Cardiothoracic Surgery (CTS) services via SCUH will be introduced to ensure the existing CTS workforce remains viable, and to avoid CTS disappearing from the Sunshine Coast region entirely?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government recognises the importance of ensuring safe, sustainable access to high-quality care for the Sunshine Coast region's population. In the 2025-26 Budget, the Crisafulli Government provided record funding to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (HHS), exceeding \$2 billion for the first time.

Queensland Health continues to work closely with Sunshine Coast HHS to progressively expand tertiary services in response to population growth and clinical need as part of ongoing health services planning, including consideration of the introduction of Cardiothoracic Surgery services at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH).

Currently, the Sunshine Coast HHS delivers a limited elective thoracic surgery service. Patients requiring complex cardiothoracic care continue to access established tertiary services in Brisbane at both the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital, ensuring continuity of safe, high-quality care for these highly specialised services.