

Question on Notice

No. 61

Asked on 11 February 2026

HON MARK BAILEY ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 192 of 2025—

Will the Minister provide, between 1 January 2025 (inclusive) to the latest available reportable month, the total number of Tier 3 Bed Capacity escalations per calendar month for the Bundaberg Base Hospital, including the escalation period (in hours), (in table format where the y axis is calendar month and the x axis is Tier 3 Bed Capacity escalation and escalation period, where the numerical values are reported in the table and not a reference number to a value that sits outside the table)?

ANSWER

The tier response process is an internal system to advise teams of the level of capacity challenges faced by a hospital. Each tier score provides actions for teams to follow to ensure the safest outcomes for patients. Capacity challenges are experienced at various times across the state, and are more acute in certain areas due to a prolonged failure by the former government to invest in more hospital capacity over a decade.

The Bundaberg Base Hospital is experiencing significant capacity challenges, due to a decade of underinvestment and poor infrastructure planning. The former government's failed plan for the New Bundaberg Hospital was documented in the *Queensland Government Capacity Expansion Program Independent Review Report*. These failures include a more than \$1.1 billion budget blow out and a more than 18-month delay to construct half a hospital. The failed plan would have seen the operation of two separate hospital sites, which was not supported by clinicians and would have cost an extra \$200 million per year in operating costs.

The Crisafulli Government's revised plan for the New Bundaberg Hospital has saved this project, and will deliver a new, bigger and better hospital on a single site, as required and supported by clinicians.

The Member may be pleased to learn that across the state, Queensland's public hospitals are spending less time on Tier 3 status than in previous years. In 2025, Queensland's 25 reporting facilities saw a more than 30% reduction on time spent in Tier 3 status.

Table 1: Tier 3 bed capacity escalations at Bundaberg Base Hospital	
Period: 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025	There were 57 Tier 3 Bed Capacity escalations at Bundaberg Base Hospital with an average escalation time of 35 hours and 59 minutes. The total escalation time was 2051 hours and 21 minutes.
Period: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024	There were 42 Tier 3 Bed Capacity escalations at Bundaberg Base Hospital with an average escalation time of 51 hours and 26 minutes. The total escalation time was 2160 hours and 38 minutes.