

ELECTIVE SURGERY — CHILDREN — CATEGORY 1 PATIENTS

**722. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister think it is acceptable that the highest percentage of patients on the over-boundary waitlist for category 3 surgeries was in the Child and Adolescent Health Service, with two in five children waiting more than a year for their surgery?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

It is always challenging having a child who needs and is awaiting surgery. It is always challenging. Of course, the service does everything it can to make sure that it sees children as quickly and efficiently as possible. There is funding available. There are uplifts available. We are looking at all the levers. Is there broader capacity in the private sector? Frankly, there is limited capacity to purchase those services in the private sector because of its own challenges as well. Of course it is challenging. Everyone wants their kid to be seen as quickly as possible, but I know that the staff are incredibly committed to that service and to ensuring that they are supported while they are waiting for their surgery and that they get their surgery as soon as possible.