

HOSPITALS — ELECTIVE SURGERIES

632. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to all public hospitals, including public hospitals with private operators, and I ask:

- (a) How many elective surgeries were cancelled in each month between:
 - (i) 2021–2022; and
 - (ii) 2022–date; and
- (b) For each month listed in (a) (i) and (ii), what was the total number of cancelled elective surgeries by area health service?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

(a)–(b) Please refer to Attachment 1.

Elective surgeries are cancelled for both patient-initiated reasons and hospital-initiated reasons. Patient safety is the priority and surgeries are often rescheduled within a matter of days. This data includes WA public hospitals only, and not data from Contracted Health Entities.

In 2022, WA public and private hospitals scaled down elective surgeries to help alleviate system pressure as the number of Omicron COVID-19 cases increased within the State.

This was a considered and planned approach made in advance to avoid having to make snap-decisions to cancel surgery on short notice – as was experienced in other States. During the scale down, there was no change to Category 1 bookings and those surgeries continued.

The temporary pause on bookings for non-urgent Category 2 and 3 elective surgery was necessary to ensure we had capacity in our system to respond to an expected increase in COVID-19 patients.

Attachment 1.

Month-Year	CAHS	EMHS	NMHS	SMHS	WACHS	Total
Jul-21	168	639	453	243	549	2052
Aug-21	176	616	399	342	607	2140
Sep-21	176	737	482	222	493	2110
Oct-21	162	605	388	229	532	1916
Nov-21	149	595	365	239	626	1974
Dec-21	120	410	248	239	415	1432
Jan-22	124	406	236	215	585	1566
Feb-22	169	529	333	206	547	1784
Mar-22	186	487	380	192	921	2166
Apr-22	102	332	260	143	267	1104
May-22	181	686	455	288	544	2154
Jun-22	176	566	438	261	592	2033
Jul-22	195	664	438	274	556	2127
Aug-22	198	670	471	363	685	2387
Sep-22	182	552	381	310	604	2029
Oct-22	197	606	394	340	554	2091
Nov-22	197	737	445	438	661	2478