

HEALTH - STATISTICS ON EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND WAITING LISTS

2839. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Health

- (1) What was the average waiting time for being treated by a doctor within a designated emergency department in the Western Australian public health system at 30 September 2007?
- (2) What was the number of patients on a waiting list to see a specialist at 30 September 2007?
- (3) What was the number of patients on a waiting list for elective surgery at 30 September 2007?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1) The most recent national comparisons show that WA in 2005-06 ranked second highest in Australia for the percentage of people seen within the recommended time in Emergency Departments (State of our Public Hospitals June 2007 report). The mean ED wait time at 30 September was 42 minutes.

The Department of Health continues to tackle ED demand and wait times with initiatives including increased allied health team presence, float teams and fastrack services within EDs, sourcing beds for Care Awaiting Placement patients in the residential care sector, establishing six After Hours General Practice Clinics, and addition of 12 new beds and a 43% increase in floorspace at Royal Perth Hospital ED. Other metropolitan EDs undergoing upgrades include Peel Health Campus, Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus and Rockingham/Kwinana District Hospital.
 - (2) The number of people waiting for an appointment for their first outpatient visit to see a surgical specialist is 14,290 - a reduction of 40% over the last twelve months (23,961). Ongoing outpatient reform activities have been reducing wait lists for the majority of specialities, including improved administration and trials using combined allied health, nursing and medical clinics to improve patient flow.
 - (3) At 21 October 2007, there were 12,573 people on the elective surgery waiting list - a 19.3% decrease from the same time last year (15,582) and close to a halving of the list when compared to 19,183 in June 2001.
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