

Constituent Question in Parliament

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Ella Haddad MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP

QUESTION:

One of my constituents recently had their surgery cancelled by the hospital. Could the minister please provide the total number of surgeries postponed by the hospital in the last two financial years and provide a breakdown of the reasons for each cancellation? Could the information please be broken down by each hospital?

ANSWER:

Delivering more elective surgeries for Tasmanians sooner is a top priority for our Government.

There were a record number of elective surgeries delivered in the last two financial years, reflecting the impacts of our \$196.4 million Statewide Elective Surgery Plan.

There may be occasions where a surgery is booked but does need to be postponed, and we fully understand the frustration this would cause for patients.

There are a range of reasons why a surgery would be postponed, such as an emergency surgery taking priority, or where it has been deferred on clinical advice.

Importantly, since coming to Government in 2014, the percentage of elective surgery postponements statewide has

reduced from 21 per cent to 17 per cent – despite increasing demand, and despite the impacts of the pandemic.

LGH Hospital Initiated Postponements

Reason	2022-23	2023-24
No appropriate beds	5	6
Theatre - Equipment Malfunction	1	1
Hospital - COVID-19	7	1
No ICU Beds	9	4
Anaesthetist - Unavailable	17	8
Theatre - Equipment Unavailable	14	15
Theatre - List Overbooked	36	37
Administration	3	-
Theatre Staff Unavailable	7	5
Incomplete Patient Preparation	96	113
No beds	62	68
Theatre - Ran out of operation time	140	110
Surgeon - Unavailable	114	142
Surgeon Postponed	252	227
More Urgent Elective Case	358	335
Over-Riding Emergency	122	116
Total	1 243	1 188

MCH Hospital Initiated Postponements

Reason	2022-23	2023-24
No appropriate beds	-	2
Theatre - Equipment Malfunction	3	21
Hospital - COVID-19	1	3
Anaesthetist - Unavailable	17	10
Theatre - Equipment Unavailable	-	13
Theatre - List Overbooked	9	5
Administration	1	1
Theatre Staff Unavailable	-	7
Incomplete Patient Preparation	2	4
No beds	3	16
Patient Admitted - Treatment Deferred	38	61

Surgeon - Unavailable	54	78
Surgeon Postponed	19	13
More Urgent Elective Case	12	26
Over-Riding Emergency	2	1
Total	161	261

NWRH Hospital Initiated Postponements

Reason	2022-23	2023-24
No appropriate beds	1	1
Theatre - Equipment Malfunction	13	15
Hospital - COVID-19	38	-
No ICU Beds	3	5
Anaesthetist - Unavailable	5	7
Theatre - Equipment Unavailable	3	7
Theatre - List Overbooked	2	9
Administration	1	7
Theatre Staff Unavailable	3	3
Incomplete Patient Preparation	3	4
No beds	45	35
Theatre - Ran out of operation time	2	-
Patient Admitted - Treatment Deferred	140	100
Surgeon - Unavailable	53	78
Surgeon Postponed	39	39
More Urgent Elective Case	107	122
Over-Riding Emergency	14	14
Total	472	446

RHH Hospital Initiated Postponements

Reason	2022-23	2023-24
No appropriate beds	4	14
Theatre - Equipment Malfunction	3	9
Hospital - COVID-19	33	1
No ICU Beds	7	7
Escalation Level	26	22
Anaesthetist - Unavailable	55	20

Theatre - Equipment Unavailable	19	21
Theatre - List Overbooked	25	27
Administration	59	70
Theatre Staff Unavailable	35	17
Incomplete Patient Preparation	70	89
No beds	69	138
Theatre - Ran out of operation time	64	60
Patient Admitted - Treatment Deferred	125	214
Surgeon - Unavailable	194	132
Surgeon Postponed	234	271
More Urgent Elective Case	101	161
Over-Riding Emergency	458	620
Total	1 581	1 893

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 30 August 2024