

Question on Notice

No. 1410

Asked on 10 November 2022

MR S KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to assurances by the Minister that a dedicated state-wide telestroke service is currently under 'consideration' and considering over 5,000 Queenslanders will suffer a stroke for the first time this year, with 25 percent experiencing a stroke in their lifetime—

Will the Minister advise when the 'consideration' process will be completed and commit to the immediate introduction of a specialised Telestroke service to save Queensland lives?

ANSWER

Queensland Health currently provides high quality stroke care to our regional and remote hospitals through telephone support by stroke specialists in hub hospitals to regional and remote hospitals. It includes review of brain images in emergency cases, to guide clinical decision-making regarding patient eligibility for appropriate treatment.

This year saw an important step forwards in improving access to hyperacute stroke therapy for North Queensland with the Townsville University Hospital opening their Endovascular Thrombectomy Service. This new service provides a highly specialised and time critical intervention to restore blood flow when the stroke has been caused by one of the large arteries in the brain becoming blocked due to a blood clot. This vital service for the people of North Queensland will reduce the time to treatment for patients, who previously had to be transferred to South East Queensland in order to receive this clinical intervention.

In addition to the above, I have been advised by the department, Queensland Health is leading a statewide reform agenda to transform the future of our health system, which includes the consideration of a statewide Telestroke service. This work is still in the consultation and development phase and therefore we are unable to advise a current timeline nor outcomes from this important phase.