

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 5.9

Output Number: Opening Statement

Date: 15 June 2026

From: Mr Chansey Paech

To: Hon Steve Edgington MLA

Portfolio: Health

Agency: Department of Health

Subject: Emergency department wait times

QUESTION:

How many patients have waited longer - across Territory Emergency Departments - than four hours, eight hours or twelve hours for admission or discharge from emergency departments?

ANSWER:

During the reporting period, a total of 143,143 presentations were recorded across NT Government Hospital Emergency Departments (ED).

Of this number:

- There were 76,110 patient presentations, who waited 4 hours or more to complete treatment in an ED and be either admitted to hospital or discharged.
- Of those 76,110 patient presentations waiting 4 hours or more, 32,110 waited 8 hours or more to complete treatment in an ED and be either admitted to hospital or discharged.
- Of those 32,110 patient presentations waiting 8 hours or more, 16,017 waited 12 hours or more to complete treatment in an ED and be either admitted to hospital or discharged.

The NT's proportion of all patients subsequently admitted and not admitted to all hospitals in the NT, who completed their ED stay within 4 hours, is consistent with the Australian average.