

## **NSW Government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic**

### **Supplementary questions**

**Hearing – 17/09/2021**

**Amanda Larkin, Chief Executive, South Western Sydney Local Health District**

#### **Hospital in the Home**

##### **QUESTION 1**

How many COVID-19 patients are currently being cared for in the HITH system in the South West Sydney Local Health District?

##### **ANSWER**

As at 08:00 on 1 October 2021, a total of 1,740 COVID-19 positive patients were registered to the HITH program or COVID-19 Community Care Team in SWSLHD.

##### **QUESTION 2**

Are doctors and/or specialists working in the HITH system are also employed at NSW Public hospital?

##### **ANSWER**

All Medical Officers working on the COVID-19 Community Care Medical Team hold substantive positions at hospitals within SWSLHD.

##### **QUESTION 3**

Are doctors working in the HITH system allocated a specific area or suburbs to treat patients within their LHD?

##### **ANSWER**

Medical assessment is facilitated through video conferencing, where possible, or telephone. This allows the medical team to undertake a medical assessment for any patient across SWSLHD.

#### **QUESTION 4**

What allied health workers work in the hospital in the home system?

#### **ANSWER**

The designation of Allied Health staff working for the COVID-19 Community Care Team is:

- 20 speech pathologists
- 11 psychologists
- 10 physiotherapists
- nine occupational therapists
- seven dietitians
- one exercise physiologist
- one allied health assistant.

#### **QUESTION 5**

How many allied health workers work in the hospital in the home system?

#### **ANSWER**

59 allied health staff are rostered to work for the COVID-19 Community Care Team.

#### **QUESTION 6**

How many assistant nurses are currently working in the HITH system?

#### **ANSWER**

Zero.

#### **QUESTION 7**

What is the average length of time a COVID-19 patient has been under the care of the hospital in the home system?

#### **ANSWER**

12.2 days.

#### **QUESTION 8**

How many of the 3,700 people under the care of the HITH system have received at least one medical review since 26 June 2021?

#### **ANSWER**

From 26 June 2021 to 9 August 2021, medical assessment was provided by the Respiratory Physician on-call. This involved a telephone or video consultation facilitated by the COVID-19 Community Care Team nurse with the Respiratory Physician.

From 10 August 2021 onwards, the COVID-19 Community Care Medical Team has been providing a HITH service for COVID-19 positive patients in home isolation.

Between 10 August 2021 and 29 September 2021, the COVID-19 Community Care Medical Team has completed 1,601 medical assessments.

Not all COVID-19 positive patients require a medical assessment as a part of their journey of care. Of those identified as requiring a medical assessment, 100 per cent have received it.

#### **QUESTION 9**

How many COVID-19 patients were under the care of the HITH system in 2020?

#### **ANSWER**

A total of 519 COVID-19 positive patients were provided care by the COVID-19 Community Care Team between 25 March 2020 and 30 December 2020.

#### **QUESTION 10**

How many patients under the care of the HITH system are in the green category?

#### **ANSWER**

As at 08:00 on 29 September 2021, there were 1,485 COVID-19 positive patients identified as low-moderate risk (GREEN).

#### **QUESTION 11**

How many patients under the care of the HITH system are in the amber category?

#### **ANSWER**

As at 08:00 on 29 September 2021, there were 213 COVID-19 positive patients identified as high risk (AMBER).

#### **QUESTION 12**

How many patients under the care of the HITH system are in the red category?

#### **ANSWER**

As at 08:00 on 29 September 2021, there were 54 COVID-19 positive patients identified as very high risk (RED).