

7 October 2020

## **Solution to Brisbane pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with thousands of patients unable to access treatment across Brisbane.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were more than 263,000 people with persistent pain in the Brisbane HHS areas, 42 per cent of appointments were not provided in Metro South and 27 per cent were not provided in Metro North due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 3,089 public appointments were needed for pain management in the Metro North HHS, but only 2,267 were provided. In addition, only 60% of these appointments fell within the clinically recommended time frame.

"Likewise, 3,107 public appointments were needed for pain management in the Metro South HHS, but only 1,793 were provided, with only 34 per cent falling within the clinically recommended time frame.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

**Read the full 11-Point Action Plan: The future health agenda [HERE](#)**

**MEDIA CONTACTS: Fran Metcalf, Sequel PR – 0417 627 867; Chiara Lesevre, AMA Queensland – 0419 735 641.**

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AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were more than 263,000 people with persistent pain in the Brisbane HHS areas, 42 per cent of appointments were not provided in Metro South and 27 per cent were not provided in Metro North due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 3,089 public appointments were needed for pain management in the Metro North HHS, but only 2,267 were provided. In addition, only 60% of these appointments fell within the clinically recommended time frame.

"Likewise, 3,107 public appointments were needed for pain management in the Metro South HHS, but only 1,793 were provided, with only 34 per cent falling within the clinically recommended time frame.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

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- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Cairns and Hinterland pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with more than 60 per cent of people with persistent pain in the Cairns and Hinterland area unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>1</sup> revealed that whilst there were more than 33,000 people with persistent pain in the Cairns and Hinterland HHS area, 62 per cent of appointments were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 912 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Cairns and Hinterland HHS, but only 345 were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Central Queensland pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with more than two-thirds of people suffering persistent pain in Central Queensland unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were more than 28,000 people with persistent pain in the Central Queensland HHS area, 70.5 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 724 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Central Queensland HHS, but only 213 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Central West pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with two-thirds of people with persistent pain in Central West Queensland unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 1,426 people with persistent pain in the Central West HHS area, 69 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 39 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Central West HHS, but only 12 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Darling Downs pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with more than 70 per cent of people suffering persistent pain on the Darling Downs unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 34,500 people with persistent pain in the Darling Downs HHS area, 72 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 945 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Darling Downs HHS, but only 269 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

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- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Gold Coast pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with more than half of the people with persistent pain on the Gold Coast unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>1</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 88,000 people with persistent pain in the Gold Coast HHS area, 57 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 2,204 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Gold Coast HHS, but only 994 appointments were provided. In addition, only 64% of these fell within the clinically recommended time frame.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
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- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
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- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Mackay pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with hundreds of people suffering persistent pain in the Mackay area unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 22,600 people with persistent pain in the Mackay HHS area, 42 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 689 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Mackay, but only 397 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

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Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to South West pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with nearly 80 per cent of the people with persistent pain in the South West area unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 3,437 people with persistent pain in the South West HHS area, 78 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 67 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the South West HHS, but only 15 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

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Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Sunshine Coast pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with more than half of the people with persistent pain on the Sunshine Coast unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 60,271 people with persistent pain in the Sunshine Coast HHS area, 59 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 1,571 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Sunshine Coast HHS, but only 650 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

**Read the full 11-Point Action Plan: The future health agenda [HERE](#)**

**MEDIA CONTACTS: Fran Metcalf, Sequel PR – 0417 627 867; Chiara Lesevre, AMA Queensland – 0419 735 641.**

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<sup>i</sup> [www.clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au](http://www.clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au)

7 October 2020

## **Solution to Torres and Cape pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with nearly 90 per cent of the people with persistent pain in the Torres and Cape region of Queensland unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>1</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 3,443 people with persistent pain in the Torres and Cape HHS area, 89 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 72 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Torres and Cape HHS, but only 8 were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Townsville pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with hundreds of people with persistent pain in Townsville unable to access appointments in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were more than 30,200 people with persistent pain in the Townsville HHS area, 21 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 1,138 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Townsville HHS, but only 899 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to West Moreton pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with nearly half of the people with persistent pain in West Moreton unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 39,760 people with persistent pain in the West Moreton HHS area, 49 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 1,013 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the West Moreton HHS, but only 519 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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7 October 2020

## **Solution to Wide Bay pain tops State Election wish list**

Doctors are calling for the next State Government to boost pain management services, with more than half of the people with persistent pain in the Wide Bay area unable to access care in the public system.

In an *11-Point Action Plan*, released in the lead up to the October 31 state election, AMA Queensland is calling for \$26m to boost local pain management services in Hospital and Health Services (HHS) across Queensland.

AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Perry said the State Government's own data<sup>i</sup> revealed that whilst there were over 32,300 people with persistent pain in the Wide Bay HHS area, 57 per cent of appointments for people with persistent pain were not provided due to lack of services.

"There is an urgent need to create new services and expand existing ones to meet the increasing need for pain management services," Dr Perry said.

"Chronic pain is the most common and disabling condition in Queensland, costing the state economy about \$27bn a year.

"The Queensland Government's own data reveals 947 public patient appointments were needed for pain management in the Wide Bay HHS, but only 405 appointments were provided.

"It's time for political parties to reveal how they will fix this problem."

Pain management centres offer multi-disciplinary treatment including physiotherapy, psychology, sleep therapy, occupational therapy and more for people suffering persistent, chronic pain.

Dr Perry said AMA Queensland was also calling for a review of how the management of pain was taught to doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners.

"Veterinarian students spend about 80 hours on average learning about the assessment and treatment of pain in animals but medical students only receive 4 - 16 hours to learn about it in people," he said.

AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Bav Manoharan said AMA Queensland was calling on all political parties running in the October 31 election to respond to its *11-Point Action Plan - The Pathway to Better Health for Queenslanders* so that doctors and patients could make an informed decision at the ballot box.

"We have called for \$641m to improve the health care system for doctors, patients and the community at large," he said.

"The challenge is now for those political parties seeking to become the next State Government in Queensland to reveal their vision for the future of healthcare."

The AMA Queensland action plan also called for:

- \$4.2m to improve the health of First Nations Queenslanders with a safe and culturally safe appropriate hospital network
- \$7.57m to boost maternity services in rural and regional communities
- \$277.4m to deliver the palliative care services Queenslanders deserve
- \$3m to reduce community-based alcohol-related harm and violence
- \$1.67m to improve doctors' mental health and workplace wellbeing

Dr Manoharan said the health system had been the centre of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic and had responded well.

“Now, however, we must take advantage of that focus to ensure that areas of need are properly resourced and that the health system is led by clinical experts, who know what’s best for their patients,” he said.

“By adopting our priorities for patients, the community and doctors, the next state government could save billions of dollars and build a sustainable system that supports all Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world.”

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