

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Cecily Rosol MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My question is on behalf of my constituent, Diane, known as Wendy Moon. Wendy needs a hip replacement; she can't stand for more than two minutes and can only walk a few steps with assistance. She can't shop, cook or get out and do the hobbies she previously enjoyed. Meanwhile, her partner has had to reduce their work hours to care for her.

Wendy has been assessed as category 3, the least-urgent wait category, despite her significant debilitation. Wendy's GP has attempted to have this category reviewed but was not successful.

Wendy asks: why has she been assessed as category 3 when she can barely move and her broader health and mental health is at risk? Why is it not considered more urgent that she is restricted to her house? Why can't she get her surgery in a timeframe that matches the seriousness of her situation?

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question on behalf of your constituent. I am very sorry to hear about their condition, and the impact is having on their daily life.

I am advised that all referrals to outpatient waitlists are triaged once a valid referral from a health professional is received. All referrals are triaged and categorised according to clinical urgency to ensure that those with the most immediate needs are seen first. This process is applied consistently to support fair and safe access to specialist care, and while I appreciate the concerns raised, a Minister cannot override the advice of specialist clinicians.

Further, the referring practitioner has responsibility for clinical monitoring of patients registered on wait lists who are awaiting initial consultation. I encourage your constituent to continue to consult with their referring practitioner. If their condition has changed or deteriorated, the referring practitioner can provide an updated referral for review by the specialist, which will enable a clinical reassessment of their condition and appointment timing. Consultation with their referring practitioner remains important both before and after their specialist appointment, to ensure they receive appropriate ongoing advice and care.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 12 March 2026