

Maggie Lilith

From: Dr James Sartain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2015 11:30 AM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: My submission on the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To: Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I write to make a submission on the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

I am Director of [REDACTED]. I have worked in Queensland Health for 20 years, having moved to Qld from interstate.

As a concrete example of the problems resulting from the Newman Government's medical contract crisis, there were 30 unfilled Specialist Anaesthetist vacancies in Qld in the departments of the attending Directors of Anaesthesia at our biannual meeting in March 2015, and I am aware of further vacancies in other Departments that weren't represented. Two years ago there were only a handful of vacancies in the state. From our statewide training data, it expected that only 22 specialist Anaesthetists will graduate in Qld at the end of 2015, so the lack of numbers (and impact on services) will continue well into 2016 at the earliest, even if all graduates enter the Qld public system. I have no hard figures about other specialties across the state, but would be surprised if this wasn't repeated - I know that our health service is unable to fill crucial vacancies in several other disciplines.

This disturbing situation has resulted from specialists leaving the public system (or Qld altogether) due to concern about job security and working conditions, and difficulty convincing people from interstate (or overseas) to come to Qld. Many of my public hospital colleagues have now increased their private practice to 'keep their options open', distrustful of the future in public health.

I therefore urge the committee to recommend passage of the bill, to help restore confidence in the Qld public system, so that we can recruit appropriately qualified personnel to care for Queenslanders into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Sartain

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