



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 7 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Service Workforce

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.49 am): A new government report shows that the number of doctors working for Queensland Health soared in the two years to June 2005 by 602—from 3,117 to 3,720. That is a 19 per cent increase. That increase is more than four times the rate of the population increase.

I also want to table for the information of the House a document titled *Growth in the Queensland Public Service Workforce 2000-2005*. When members look at it they will see that that increase has occurred in the key service delivery areas. That is exactly what the community expects us to deliver. It covers workers in areas such as Education, Health, Police and other core services such as Child Safety, Communities, Disability Services and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.

This is about building a workforce that delivers services. We are a growth state. We need to ensure that we have workers in the key areas. I seek leave to have the details of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

So much for the misleading, untruthful scaremongering of the Opposition when it comes to doctor numbers.

The number of nurses grew by 1,098 to 17,119 in the same period—up 7% which is also above the average population increase.

And the number of allied health workers increased by 601 to 8,299—up 8% to also outstrip the population increase.

All these figures are measured on what the public service calls full-time equivalents.

These figures also show the Coalition's threat to sack 2,000 health workers will cure nothing but would cripple the health system.

The ratio of staff either directly or indirectly engaged in the delivery of health services to staff in administrative roles remains at about 8 to 2.

The report says this is a conservative estimate since some of the managerial and clerical staff, such as hospital admission clerks, are essential to the delivery of health care services.

The catch in the Opposition's promise is that if administrators are sacked then, doctors, nurses and allied health workers would have to spend time on paperwork instead of looking after patients.

Staff essential to operating hospitals such as chemists, statisticians, actuaries, engineers and other professionals, operational staff such as cleaners, cooks, laundry workers and housekeepers, and tradespeople comprise 14% of the workforce.

Of the total growth in the Queensland public service between 2000 and 2005, 85%—14,547—was in education, health, police and other core services—child safety, communities, disability services and the Commission for Children and Young People and the Child Guardian.

The public service grew by a total of 8.5%—less than the Queensland population which grew by 9%.

Between 2000 and 2005 the number of teachers grew by 2,562.

In this same period, the number of police rose from 7,669 to 9,151—an increase of 19%.

The report—*Growth in the Queensland Public Service Workforce 2000-2005*—will be placed on the Government's website.