

Question on Notice
No. 1055
Asked on 2 September 2004

MR COPELAND asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL) –

QUESTION:

For each of the last two financial years and for the year to date, what is the number of notifications of each notifiable sexually transmitted disease for the age group 0-15 years, broken down for each Health Service District and the total statewide figures (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

Summary data for Queensland is set out below:

	2002-2003	2003-2004
	<16	<16
Chlamydia	229	350
Gonorrhoea	52	80
Syphilis	7	6
Donovanosis	2	0

All data is aggregate and no information is available on individual cases.

As the small number of cases in some districts would allow identification of individual patients, it would be inappropriate to release data broken down by Health Service District.

Notification increases are likely to be caused by improved case ascertainment. Whereas asymptomatic cases of Chlamydia may go undetected in up to one-quarter of cases, increased testing and targeted screening programs and the introduction of less invasive (urine) PCR laboratory testing methods has improved case ascertainment and increased notification rates.

Between 1998 and 2003, testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea within Queensland has more than doubled (226%). Over the same period, notifications (for all ages) have also increased (189%).