

**Question on Notice
No. 170
Asked on 22 April 2004**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to funding of the John Tonge Centre for each year over the past five years and for the year to date-

Will he provide the budgeted and actual expenditure for the above years, including a breakdown of sections and programs where funding has been spent?

ANSWER:

The Beattie Labor Government has invested an extra \$5.13 million on a base of \$4.82 since May 1999. The John Tonge Centre has been able to recruit an extra 30 staff due to these initiatives. These include Scientists, Technicians, Pathologists and counsellors.

Extra Scientists are being recruited by Queensland Health Scientific Services through this Governments 2004 Election Commitment of \$11 million over the next 3 years to reduce the DNA Crime Scene Samples waiting times.

Above and beyond this there has been over \$1.5 million spent on the latest technology and equipment for forensic sciences. Initiatives underway include the establishment of the Forensic Sciences Liaison Unit set up to liaise with court officers and police to improve turn around times to meet court requirements. A new fully integrated laboratory information system has also been developed to deliver a single forensic case identifier and in addition an interface with the police information system will provide a way for scientists to access the latest court and justice requirements.