

**Question on Notice  
No. 223  
Asked on 27 April 2004**

QUESTION:

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for the Environment (Mr Mickel) -  
With reference to staffing within his department, will he provide:

- (1) A list of staff in each office, by position and public service classification, currently and for each year since 2001?
- (2) A list of current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification?
- (3) An indication of how long each of these positions in (2) have been vacant and when they will be filled?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Government is concentrating its efforts and resources on key priorities in order to improve performance and respond to changing community needs and expectations. Staffing arrangements within my Agency are similarly focused on departmental outputs to support the priorities. I refer the Member to the Ministerial Portfolio Statements of my Agency for 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 for details of the number of staff employed to deliver the specified outputs for the Agency.
- (2) & (3) The Queensland Public Service does not operate a formal establishment management system. Under section 51 of the *Public Service Act 1996*, chief executives are responsible for deciding the number and classification levels of their employees.

Staffing structures are varied in accordance with the operational requirements of the Agency. Vacancies are managed within this context and are subject to a merit and equity process to ensure the best applicant for each position is recruited.

Under these arrangements, a chief executive may decide not to re-staff a job that becomes vacant. This may be because a decision has been made to vary the staff profile of the unit concerned, or to apply the resources to a higher priority in another part of the Agency.