

Question on Notice
No. 569
Asked on 20 May 2004

DR FLEGG asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)-

QUESTION:

Will he detail the total number of reported instances of violence perpetrated by patients against (reported separately) (a) doctors, (b) nurses and (c) other hospital employees, by health district for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

This information is not available at the corporate level. Each Health Service District is responsible for maintaining generic statistical information. However information involving patients is not readily available on the system and would require review of individual patient charts. To access patient charts for this purpose would breach the confidentiality provisions of the *Health Services Act 1991*.

Queensland Health is implementing a rollout of an Aggressive Behaviour Management for Healthcare Workers course and this training will assist staff to manage aggressive events. Early reports from staff who have completed training are extremely positive and their confidence and personal wellbeing has improved considerably.

In addition I have asked the Director General to establish a Steering Committee which includes representation from the Queensland Nurses' Union, to further explore this issue and provide recommendations on any improvements identified for the provision of a healthier and safe work environment for Queensland Health staff.