

Question on Notice
No. 914
Asked on 19 August 2004

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

QUESTION:

How much funding has been allocated this financial year to provide around-the-clock security guards and security barriers in emergency departments within the State's public hospitals, broken down by region?

ANSWER:

Queensland Health is committed to providing a safe environment for all staff. This is evidenced through a number of strategies, including:

- security risk management - there has been a security survey of every Queensland Health healthcare facility and a security risk management plan prepared along with security guidelines;
- occupational violence guidelines - every Queensland Health district has put in place training and work procedures to reduce violence;
- personal security guidelines - guidelines focussing on personal security have been developed to increase the safety-consciousness of staff and provide guidelines to manage workplace safety;
- redesign of hospitals and health centres - the Queensland Government's \$2.8 billion rebuilding program, completed last year, included the rebuild or upgrade of 150 hospitals and health centres. Staff security was an important factor in the design of all facilities – for example duress systems and electronic locking systems, closed circuit TV included as appropriate;
- information campaign – the display of posters and signs that remind patients that violence and aggression towards staff and other patients is just 'not on';
- training program - a competency based training program on Aggressive Behaviour Management for Healthcare Workers (ABMHW) has been developed in conjunction with the Security Institute to specifically meet the needs of Queensland Health and its employees. Over 200 staff in emergency departments will receive training this year through the Government's Emergency Services Strategy.

In relation to the specific question, I am informed that it is not possible to provide an answer to the question asked as the funding associated with providing security in emergency departments is not distinguishable from that connected with the overall security costs at the State's public hospitals.