

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 314**  
**Asked on 22 March 2005**

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the acute shortages of doctors, specialists and nurses in Queensland's health system, and as yet too many of our young Queenslanders are going to centres in other States to undertake their medical training, often choosing not to return to Queensland to practise—

What is the status of medical training facilities and medical educational facilities in Queensland and how well do they serve this State?

**ANSWER:**

Queensland Health is the largest provider of medical specialist training for Queensland. This training is provided through Queensland Health's network of services which operate through 202 acute care facilities, 570 non-inpatient services including mental health, community health and pathology services, and 20 State Government residential aged care facilities.

Additionally, Queensland Health has dedicated training facilities such as the Skills Development Centre. The Queensland Health Skills Development Centre is one of most technologically advanced and comprehensive of 300 skills development centres worldwide. It is the only one of seven such centres in Oceania to have a complete suite of virtual reality and simulation training equipment. It covers over 3000sqm, with 26 session rooms, laboratories, and even a fully-functional operating theatre and hospital ward.

Following my Government's intense lobbying of the Federal Government to increase undergraduate medical places, I am happy to advise the Member that Queensland is now well positioned with educational and training facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate medical training. Undergraduate training for doctors is currently provided by three Queensland universities:

- A four (4) year postgraduate program through the University of Queensland
- A six (6) year undergraduate program through James Cook University
- A four (4) year postgraduate program at Griffith University.

Bond University is expected to commence a five year undergraduate program mid 2005.

The additional medical school places made available through the commencement of medical schools at James Cook, Griffith and Bond universities will see the number of Queensland medical graduates more than double from approximately 230 in 2004 to more than 500 each year by 2010.