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

QUESTION:

(1) For each of the last two financial years and for the year to date and broken down by district, what was the total number of staff (including casual, temporary and permanent) who were overpaid, including overpayments through the payroll system and those raised as debtors?

(2) For each of the past two financial years and for the year to date and broken down by district, what was the number of staff (including casual, temporary and permanent) recorded in the payroll system as overpaid/debtors?

(3) For those listed in (1) and (2), what was the quantum of the overpayment in each instance (reported separately), and what amount has been recovered to date?

ANSWER:

It is not possible to provide the specific information requested without diverting Queensland Health staff from their important work supporting health service delivery.

However, I can inform the member that the total number of payroll transactions for Queensland Health is in the order of 45,000,000 each year and that overpayment of staff may result for a number of reasons including:

- Incorrect or late advice being received by payroll departments regarding hours worked;
- Variation between rostered hours and hours worked (eg when projections are made for expected public holiday work which is not required on the day);
- Incorrect interpretation of awards;
- Data input errors.

Queensland Health makes all reasonable efforts to recover overpayments. The itinerant nature of some occupational groups, such as nurses and doctors, may complicate or delay the recovery of some overpayment amounts.