

Question on Notice
No. 485
Asked on 19 April 2005

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the training of medical students during 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 (reported separately)—

- (1) What is the number of medical students, interns, or junior medical officers that have been trained by overseas trained doctors who fill areas of need or deemed specialist positions in Queensland public hospitals?
- (2) What is the number of medical students, interns or junior medical officers that were trained by overseas trained doctors who have subsequently been assessed as unsuitable or dismissed?
- (3) How many medical students, interns, or junior medical officers has Dr Jayant Patel been responsible for training at Bundaberg Base Hospital or any other medical training facility during his employment in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Clinical placements for medical students are organised by the respective universities directly with placement areas. Queensland Health does not coordinate these placements or have information about the number of medical students that may be in a Queensland Health facility at any one time. Universities organise clinical supervision for medical students.

Interns are employed on a calendar year basis. The number of interns Queensland Health employed over the requested years were: 246 in 1999, 227 in 2000, 231 in 2001 and 241 in 2002. It is not known how many of these interns received training by overseas trained doctors.

Queensland Health is not aware of any Australian trained junior medical officers who, as a result of supervision by an overseas trained doctor, have been assessed as unsuitable or dismissed.

Bundaberg Hospital does not employ interns. However, interns employed by the Mater Hospital are placed there for rotations in medicine and surgery. Supervision of interns is provided by consultants and visiting medical officers as well as more senior resident staff. An accreditation review of doctor education at Bundaberg Hospital conducted by the Postgraduate Medical Education Foundation of Queensland in June 2004, identified the supervision received by interns on placement was appropriate.

Bundaberg Hospital employs the full time equivalent of one junior house officer in surgery. Additionally, the full time equivalent of one intern employed by the Mater Hospital is placed at the Bundaberg Hospital surgical unit. Dr Patel would have been part of a team of medical practitioners which provided training to ten interns and ten junior house officers.