

Question on Notice
No. 594
Asked on 10 May 2005

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the number of medical students trained in Queensland to become doctors—
Will he advise how many students received scholarships contracting them to rural areas in each of the financial years from 1989-90 to 2004-05?

ANSWER:

Data on the number of scholarships for 1989/90 is not available.

The following table identifies the number of medical scholarships offered and received in the financial years 1990-91 to 2004-05.

Financial Year	No. Medical Scholarships Received	No. Commonwealth Scholarships
1990-1991	38	
1991-1992	36	
1992-1993	32	
1993-1994	27	
1994-1995	18	
1995-1996	18	
1996-1997	20	
1997-1998	20	
1998-1999	30	
1999-2000	18	
2000-2001	18	
2001-2002	17	
2002-2003	21	
2003-2004	15	
2004-2005	Waiting acceptance by students	
Total: Average No. of Scholarships Per Annum	23.43	20

The variation of the number of scholarships received each financial year reflects the practice to offer unfilled scholarships in the next recruitment round in the following year.

To ensure the Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme (QHRSS) medical scholarships remained competitive and attractive a decision was made in 1999 to align the financial assistance provided under the QHRSS medical scholarships with the recently announced Commonwealth Rural Medical Bonded Scholarship Scheme. At this time the number of medical scholarships available was then changed from 30 to 20.

Consequently, from 2000 twenty medical scholarships were available each year plus any unfilled medical scholarships from the previous recruitment round. The variation in the number of medical scholarships received in the financial years 2000 – 2005 reflect the number of applicants applying and accepting the medical scholarships with the QHRSS.