

**Question on Notice
No. 695
Asked on 12 May 2005**

MRS E CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the process for WorkCover to pay Queensland Health for health services provided to injured workers which has changed-

Under the new structure will the hospital which provides the service receive WorkCover payments or will monies paid by WorkCover be collected by a centralised health agency?

ANSWER:

The new fee-for-service arrangement between Queensland Health and WorkCover Queensland commenced on 1 April 2005.

Under the new arrangement, Queensland public hospitals raise invoices and receipt all monies for non-admitted services provided to injured workers. However, financial processes relating to invoicing and collection of monies for admitted patients is managed centrally within Queensland Health to minimise the administrative burden for hospital staff. This centralised financial process has the added benefit of providing a 'one-stop-shop' for Queensland workers compensation insurers seeking advice relating to admitted claims.

While financial processes for admitted patients are managed centrally, all monies receipted under the new arrangement are devolved to Health Service Districts in accordance with the Queensland Health revenue retention framework, which is premised on the principle of aligning monies received with the level of costs incurred by hospitals in providing services to injured workers.