

**Question on Notice
No. 766
Asked on 24 May 2005**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1089 asked on 28 September 2004, which acknowledged that information gathered and recorded by hospitals with respect to golden staph infections is held at the local level, however, he refused to provide this information suggesting that '*any comparative collection of this information for statistical use would be misleading and clinically inappropriate*' and given his unwillingness to provide this important information for each public hospital—

Will he now provide the number of golden staph infections reported statewide for each of the last two financial years and for the financial year to date (reported separately for each year)?

ANSWER:

As the Member appears to have been selective in his quoting of my response to Question on Notice No. 1089 (2004), I would ask that he refer again to my answer and remind himself of the reason that I stated that '*any comparative collection of this information for statistical use would be misleading and clinically inappropriate*'.

For his information, my response was:

'Golden staph is commonly carried in the nose and on the skin of people in the community. People with drug resistant strains of this infection are treated in our hospitals.

Golden staph is not a notifiable disease in Queensland and no central repository of numbers of reported infections is kept.

Definition of cases can be very complex with high levels of clinical expertise required. The information gathered and recorded by hospitals with respect to infection is held at the local level and is only of significance to the individual facility's clinicians. Any comparative collection of this information for statistical use would be misleading and clinically inappropriate.'