

**Question on Notice  
No. 908  
Asked on 7 June 2005**

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to a doctor on the Fraser Coast who has a close working knowledge of the Fraser Coast Health District and who told me that when doctors have been recruited to the district, they have been given the choice as to whether they want to live in Hervey Bay or Maryborough. However, they were then offered free accommodation if they chose to reside at Hervey Bay but nothing if they wanted to live at Maryborough—

Will he investigate this scandalous corruption which has robbed Maryborough Hospital of senior doctors residing in our city who would be more conveniently located for providing after hours support?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that since the Health Service Districts were created, accommodation assistance for senior medical staff of the Fraser Coast Health Service District has and is still being provided in accordance with the employees' entitlement irrespective of where the staff members reside.

It is a doctor's choice where they choose to live. Regardless whether a doctor chooses to live in Hervey Bay or Maryborough, the same entitlement applies. However, when on call, Anaesthetists, Obstetricians and Paediatricians must be able to quickly attend the hospital to respond to emergency situations. Health Service owned accommodation in Maryborough and Hervey Bay is offered if available.

I am advised that senior medical staff reside in Health Service accommodation and non Health Service accommodation in both Maryborough and Hervey Bay.