

Question on Notice
No. 182
Asked on 21 February 2007

MRS PRATT asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

- (1) What percentage of clinical staff by department at South Burnett District Health have resigned in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many have been replaced at the same level of qualification?
- (3) How many positive responses to advertisements resulting in staff being employed have been received by Queensland Health for the South Burnett District?
- (4) Has the staff/patient ratio increased or decreased since 2000 according to increased demand at the Kingaroy Base Hospital?
- (5) Will the outpatients department (now accident and emergency) return to full operation to assist in meeting the demand for services which the departure of two doctor's services from the district has created?

ANSWER:

- (1)-(2) Following the recent consolidation of health service districts, the data set out below is in respect of the West Moreton South Burnett Health Service District:

OCCUPATIONAL STREAMS	FEBRUARY 2006 HEADCOUNT	SEPARATIONS	FEBRUARY 2007 HEADCOUNT	NET INCREASE	% NET INCREASE
Medical	156	63	196	40	25.64%
Nursing	1290	222	1378	88	6.82%
Allied Health/ Professionals/ Scientists	334	107	349	15*	4.49%

*The February 2007 headcount does not include three allied health positions based at Kingaroy but recruited through Princess Alexandra Hospital.

- (3) In 2006 there were 52 different positions advertised in the South Burnett region. Of these positions 40 were successful in being filled. The other 12 positions received no suitable applications or had no applicants. These positions, along with new vacancies will be advertised and recruited for in 2007.
- (4) The staff/patient ratio for hospital activity at Kingaroy for the period 2000-01 to 2005-06 shows a slight decrease trend in staff ratio. There has been a corresponding 7% increase in inpatient activity (hospital separations) in the years 2000-01 to 2005-06.

At Kingaroy Hospital within medical, nursing and professional streams there has been a small increase in staffing in the years 2003-04 to 2006-07. Kingaroy Hospital has had one extra medical officer and an increase of 28 hours to fully staff both shifts in Outpatients/Emergency Department, as well as the upgrade of two junior medical officers to senior medical officers since 2001. Four additional allied health professionals have also recently been appointed through the allied health enhancement initiative.

- (5) The Emergency Department (referred to in the question as accident and emergency) continues to provide the same level of 24 hour service as provided prior to pre-booked General Practitioner type appointments ceased.

Queensland Health continues to provide public medical services to the residents of the district from Kingaroy, Murgon, Cherbourg and Nanango Hospitals. No patient who presents to Kingaroy Hospital is denied assessment and management.