

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1923**  
**Asked on 14 November 2007**

MR LANGBROEK asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise whether any Queensland Health Doctors are paid for by an overseas government or other agency; if so, (a) how many are there, (b) where are they from and (c) where and how are they employed?

ANSWER:

Queensland Health has a number of medical officers paid for by an overseas government or other agency.

Medical training by its nature is often broader than the local health care environment.

Many doctors seek to supplement their training by experiencing medical practice in other health care environments either in other States and Territories of Australia or internationally.

In hosting such positions, Queensland is providing another country with the opportunity to supplement its medical training capacity in key areas.

At the same time, the community gains because there are more doctors available to provide services in these areas while the overseas doctor is completing or consolidating their specialist training.

These are not doctors who are just commencing medical practice. These are experienced practitioners either gaining additional experience after completing their specialist qualification or in the latter stages of their specialty training.

At the Royal Brisbane Hospital the following arrangements exist:

- the United States based company Smith and Nephew is paying for an honorary Orthopaedic Surgery Registrar from January to December 2007;
- the Sri Lankan Government is paying for a honorary Thoracic Medicine Registrar from February 2007 to January 2008;
- the Saudi Arabian Government will pay for an Intensive Care Registrar from January 2008 to January 2009; and
- a United States University Medical Researcher will undertake a paid sabbatical in Medical Imaging from January to July 2008.

At the Prince Charles Hospital the Sri Lankan Government paid for an Honorary Fellow in Interventional Cardiology until October 2007 with another Fellow expected to commence in January 2008.

At the Royal Children's Hospital the Malaysian Government will pay for a Fellow in Endocrinology from October 2007 to June 2008 and another from January 2008 to 2009.

At the Princess Alexandra Hospital the following arrangements exist:

- the Brunei Government will pay for a Honorary Registrar in Plastics until January 2008 after which time it will decide whether to commit to this position for a further three years;
- the Sri Lankan Government will pay for a Honorary Fellow in Microbiology from January 2007 to January 2008; and
- AO Spine, a Swiss-based global community of spine specialists dedicated to Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen (AO) principles of spine care will pay a stipend allowance to an AO Spine Observer from September 2007 to December 2007.

Such arrangements are negotiated at the hospital level and are an important part of the medical professional culture.