

Question on Notice
No. 255
Asked on 22 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the John Tonge Centre-

- (1) What is the current wait time for post mortems?
- (2) What is the current wait time for forensic testing for Court cases?
- (3) What were staffing levels at John Tonge in January 1990, 2000 and 2007?

ANSWER:

- (1) Currently 97% of post mortem examinations are completed within one working day of the order for post mortem being issued by the Coroner.

This complies with the agreed turn around times outlined within the Service Level Agreement between the Office of the State Coroner and Queensland Health Pathology and Scientific Services which states that 90% of post mortem examinations should be completed within one working day of receiving the Coroner's order.
- (2) Queensland Health Scientific Services currently meets 99% of dates where results are required for court. The examination, analysis and reporting time required for forensic cases varies depending on the type of analysis requested, the complexity of the case and the number of exhibits requiring analysis.
- (3) The total staff numbers within Queensland Health Forensic Sciences were 39 in 1990, 74 in 2000 and are currently 186 in 2007.