

Question on Notice
No. 333
Asked on 7 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the claimed 'new' allied health staff and other medical staff employed under the Health Action Plan—

- (1) How many of these 'new' recruits have been previously employed by Queensland Health as part time, casual, temporary or contract and reflect only a change to permanent status?
- (2) As certain professional medical bodies are unable to confirm the appointment of any 'new' staff in their particular field, will he list each field and number of new appointments who do not reflect merely a change to their previous status?

ANSWER:

Queensland Health has monitored net increases in staff for each clinical occupational stream, including Allied Health/Professionals/Scientists and Medical Officers, since 2005.

A baseline was established at June 2005 and since then all additional staff being paid, over or additional to the previous month, have been identified through the payroll component of the Queensland Health Human Resource Management Information System.

Change to an individuals employment status (permanent/casual/contract/part-time) will in no way impact on or alter the reported net increase data. These net increases in staff are subsequently graphed and reported monthly, including the proportion or percentage of casual staff who make up the total number of the identified net increases.

Responses to your specific questions follow:

- (1) A net increase of 1,038 has occurred in the allied health/professionals/scientists occupational stream between June 2005 and February 2007 (see Table 1 below). Three of those staff are employed on a casual basis, the balance (1,035) are permanent employees in Queensland Health. Any change in employment status will not alter the total net increase figure of 1,038 as reported in February 2007.

Table 1
Allied Health/Professionals/Scientists Net Increases June 2005 – February 2007

	Baseline Headcount June 2005	Headcount June 2006	Headcount February 2007
Total Allied Health/ Professionals/Scientists	5,806	6,352	6,844

- (2) No casual medical officers constitute a proportion of the total net increase in the medical officer occupational stream as reported in February 2007 (see Table 2 below).

Table 2
Medical Officer Net Increases - June 2005 – February 2007

Paypoint Description	Headcounts							
	Baseline June 2005	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007
Medical Senior Officer	256	291	295	300	308	308	312	334
Medical Staff Specialists	1,021	1,129	1,146	1,153	1,177	1,194	1,256	1,272
Medical Officer (Right of Private Practice)	20	13	16	14	15	16	19	22
Medical Registrar/Principal House Officer	1,463	1,622	1,618	1,621	1,649	1,662	1,657	1,780
Medical Superintendent	145	113	118	108	103	99	92	96
Medical Officer - Public Service	16	16	16	16	15	15	15	15
Resident Medical Officer	757	868	898	917	909	910	1,063	1,051
Visiting Medical Officer	97	99	98	101	100	98	94	100
Visiting Oral Surgeon	5	8	8	6	7	6	8	8
Visiting Specialist	772	790	787	788	787	792	772	808
Medical Total (incl VMOs)	4,552	4,949	5,000	5,024	5,070	5,100	5,288	5,486