

Question on Notice
No. 616
Asked on 18 April 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland Health medical radiation professionals, will he advise if (a) every medical radiation professional was advised in writing that a review would be conducted as a matter of urgency into workload and staffing issues and to follow through with the timeframe agreed by Queensland Health and the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union for a subsidiary agreement set up to address issues still not addressed in enterprise bargaining, (b) Queensland radiographers are the lowest paid in Australia and, if not, who are, and (c) Queensland radiographers are the lowest paid, is this contributing to the inability to recruit and what is he doing to correct this issue?

ANSWER:

- (a) Yes, every medical radiation professional in Queensland Health received a letter from the Director-General, Queensland Health on 1 December 2006. In this letter the Director-General made the following statement: "I have agreed with the LHMU to conduct a review of workloads with reference to other States, the private sector and international benchmarks".

The first phase of this project commenced in early 2007 with a literature review which will be completed by June 2007 and phase 2 planning has commenced.

- (b) Queensland Health radiographers are not the lowest paid in Australia. Victoria and South Australia radiographers are the lowest paid.
- (c) The major contributing factor is a world wide and national shortage of radiographers. Remuneration and competitive salaries will be addressed as part of the negotiation for the replacement of the Professional and Technical Officer Employee and Dental Officers Certified Agreement. The negotiation for the replacement of this agreement has commenced and is expected to be signed off by the end of August 2007.