

Question on Notice
No. 655
Asked on 19 April 2007

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 449—

What legal or administrative advice was he relying on when deciding not to provide the names of the doctors employed at the Mareeba Hospital, given that they are on the public payroll and the Government professes to be open, accountable and transparent?

ANSWER:

Queensland Health is bound by Information Standard No. 42A in regard to the release of personal information. This standard complies with the National Privacy Principles contained in the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988*. It also reflects the content and mandatory requirements of Information Standard No. 42 under the Information Privacy Principles adopted by other State Government Departments.

The standard applies to personal information about both clients and staff.

Under National Privacy Principle 2 Queensland Health cannot release personal information for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected unless:

- (a) That purpose is related to the purpose for which it was collected; or
- (b) The individual has given consent; or
- (c) The information is for marketing purposes and a series of conditions have been met; or
- (d) The information is health information to be used for research or statistical analysis relevant to public health and safety, under certain conditions; or
- (e) Use or disclosure is deemed necessary to lessen or prevent an imminent threat to the individual's or the public's health or safety; or
- (f) Use or disclosure is required for the investigation of suspected criminal activity; or
- (g) Use or disclosure is required under law; or
- (h) Use or disclosure is necessary for or on behalf of an enforcement agency for specified activities.

As the request for the disclosure of the names of staff employed in a health facility met none of these requirements this information was not included in the response.