

**Question on Notice
No. 798
Asked on 24 May 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to staffing levels in Queensland Health/hospitals—

- (1) How many staff have left in all departments?
- (2) What is the current staff status of all departments?
- (3) What increases in staff in each department (ie. Surgical, pathology etc) has there been?
- (4) What is the likelihood of further increases in staff levels in all departments as they are suffering increasing stress levels?

ANSWER:

(1) – (3)

Queensland Health is the principal workplace training organisation for all doctors and plays a significant role in the training of other clinical staff.

Separations from Queensland Health are for a variety of reasons including young doctors who have completed clinical training and progress to their careers in either a public hospital, as a private General Practitioner, or in the private sector. Other reasons for clinical staff separations include: retirement, resignation, death; transfer (out of Queensland Health); dismissal; end of contract.

Workforce headcount data as at June 2006 and April 2007 are taken from Queensland Health Human Resource Management Information Systems database; and take into account separations.

Net increases have been achieved in the number of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals employed during the reporting period because the number of new staff joining Queensland Health have outweighed the number of separations.

For example, while there were 2,993 separations during the period June 2006-April 2007, Queensland Health still increased its clinical workforce from 34,484 doctors ,nurses and allied health professionals in June 2006 to 37,551 as at April 2007.

Clinical occupation streams are monitored and reported on a monthly basis.

	June 2006 Headcount Totals	Separations During Period	April 2007 Headcount Totals	Net Increase	Percentage Net Increase
Medical (incl VMOs)	4,863	679	5,551	688	14%
Nursing	23,269	1,504	25,068	1,799	8%
Allied Health/Professional/ Scientists	6,352	810	6,932	580	9%
Queensland Health Total Headcount	34,484	2,993	37,551	3,067	9%

Notes about this data:

- All data was extracted from the Queensland Health Human Resource Management Information Systems (HRMIS).
- Obtaining a staffing profile based on departments is not possible to achieve centrally from the HRMIS.
- Net increases in clinical occupational streams are monitored and reported monthly.
- Separations data is amended/updated retrospectively by Health Service Districts and is therefore potentially subject to frequent ongoing changes.

- (4) Further increases in clinical staffing are expected in the next year as an outcome of the 2007-08 budget and Queensland Health recruitment campaigns within Australia and overseas.