

Question on Notice
No. 826
Asked on 5 June 2007

MR LANGBROEK asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to clinical waste management systems—

- (1) Do all hospitals across the State comply with clinical waste management removal regulations?
- (2) Who has the clinical waste management removal contract for each Queensland public hospital (reported separately)?
- (3) How many waste management bins are issued per hospital?
- (4) How often are the waste management bins replaced?
- (5) What is the cost of replacing the waste management bins?

ANSWER:

- (1) Under the *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000*, certain facilities including hospitals are required to have a clinical and related waste management plan before the facility can operate.

Queensland Health has developed guidelines for the management of clinical and related wastes for adoption by hospitals. The clinical and related waste management plan provides goals and targets to ensure ongoing improvements in all aspects of waste management including the generation, reduction, handling, storage and disposal of all forms of waste.

Individual hospitals are able to tailor their clinical and related waste management plan based on the guidelines to suit their own particular needs.

- (2)-(5) There is no benefit in collecting data of this type at a corporate level. To obtain the information sought would involve requesting the provision of data from each Health Service District and hospital. As such, I consider that the collection of this data would constitute an unreasonable burden on Departmental officers and it would unnecessarily divert them from their primary health care role.