

**Question on Notice
No. 1010
Asked on 5 June 2008**

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

In relation to dental services in Gladstone—

- (1) How many full-time dentists were employed at the clinic as at 30 June 2007, 31 August 2007, 31 December 2007, 31 March 2008 and 31 May 2008?
- (2) What were the waiting times for each quarter since 1 July 2007 to the present (listed separately by category and priority)?

ANSWER:

The Member will appreciate there is a national shortage of dentists.

- (1) The Gladstone Dental Clinic had the following numbers of dentists employed as at the dates requested:
 - 30 June 2007 – three full time and two part time dentists;
 - 31 August 2007 – three full time and two part time dentists;
 - 31 December 2007 – three full time and two part time dentists;
 - 31 March 2008 – one full time, one part time and one casual part time dentist; and
 - 31 May 2008 – one full time, one part time four days per week dentist.

An additional 16 dentist days were provided by visiting locum services during May by dentists from Rockhampton (the equivalent of three weeks of dentist services for the month). I can advise that a new full time dentist commenced work in Gladstone on 2 June 2008. Furthermore, another dentist has accepted a full time position at Gladstone and is expected to start in August 2008.

- (2) The average wait (weeks) from the Assessment Waiting List for the Gladstone Community Dental Clinic is as detailed as follows:

Category/Priority*	Type	Jul-Sep 07	Oct-Dec 07	Jan-Mar 08	Apr-Jun 08 To date
1	Wait (weeks)	0.3	2.2	0.1	0.6
6	Wait (weeks)	153.8	164.5	169.6	125.5

*** Queensland Health - Priority Code Criteria and Definition for Access to Oral Health Care – Assessment Waiting List**