

Question on Notice
No. 1608
Asked on 30 October 2008

MR ELMES asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Ministerial Taskforce set up in June 2007 'to boost clinical training and education' and more recently, the Ministerial Taskforce set up in October 2008 'to enhance medical staffing, education and training in regional Queensland'—

- (1) Are any members of the 2007 Ministerial Taskforce on the new taskforce?
- (2) Is the 2007 Ministerial Taskforce still active?
- (3) Are any of Queensland Health's regional directors part of either taskforce?
- (4) How many ministerial taskforces have been set up by Queensland Health in the last three years with the aim of 'recruiting, training, educating, boosting and/or enhancing medical staff and health professionals' in either the metropolitan or regional areas?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Ministerial Taskforce on Clinical Education and Training was established in April 2006.

The 2008 Ministerial Taskforce on Medical Staffing, Education and Training in Regional Queensland has two members of the 2006 Ministerial Taskforce committee.

The 2008 taskforce will build on the excellent work of our first taskforce on education and training that resulted in \$145 million in new funding to support medical graduates and increase training places in hospitals through Queensland. It will provide the Government with advice on ways to enhance medical staffing and provide sustainable medical services in regional Queensland including Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay hospitals.

- (2) No. The final report was tabled March 2007. In response to the report recommendations, the Bligh Government has committed to \$33 million over four years to improve medical education and training in Queensland. These will include:
 - The establishment of an office of a Statewide Director of Medical Education and Training.
 - Funding to support implementation of prevocational medical education and training networks.
 - An electronic learning platform that will be rolled out for all Interns in 2009.
 - Securing recurrent funding for Queensland Health interns to participate in paid mandatory orientation program (1 week) and have access to advanced life support training within three months of commencement.

- \$2.3 million to improve available medical education support within Medical Education Units across Queensland.
 - Establishment of additional Intern positions to accommodate the increase in Queensland domestic medical graduate numbers.
 - Innovative rural placements created at increasing Intern training capacity and encouraging junior doctors to experience rural practice.
 - Creation of vocational training posts (30 in 2008, 30 in 2009).
 - Funding new vocational training posts under the Commonwealth's Expanded Setting for Specialist Training Program.
 - Funding allocation - Basic & Advanced General Physicians Training Pathways and nationally recognised Teaching on the Run and Professional Development for Registrars Programs
 - Creation of four coordinator positions to support pre-vocational doctors.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) There have been three ministerial taskforces established since 2006.