

Question on Notice
No. 1644
Asked on 30 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent resignation of Dr Grahame McAllister from Queensland Health, citing 'a lack of professional support and a culture of suspicion and intrigue'—

- (1) How many doctors are employed by Queensland Health?
- (2) How many of these doctors have received complaints against them by hospital staff (listed separately by hospital)?
- (3) How many doctors employed by Queensland Health have made statements similar to Dr McAllister in their resignation from Queensland Health?
- (4) How many doctors have resigned each year since 2004?

ANSWER:

- (1)&(4) The attached table indicates the number of medical officers (by headcount) employed by Queensland Health each year from June 2005 to September 2008. Separations of employment by medical officers are also identified by headcount for each year. Unfortunately, data from June 2004 to June 2005 is not available. Since June 2005, the number of medical officers (by headcount) employed by Queensland Health has increased each year and has exceeded the number of separations over this period.

This data includes resident medical officers and international medical graduates who are typically employed for a fixed term. Resident medical officers are employed in this manner because their training is dependent upon an annual allocation process. The employment of international medical graduates is conditional upon temporary visas facilitating their residency and employment in Australia. The separation of these medical officers is included in this data.

- (2) Queensland Health does not, at this point in time, collect this data centrally.
- (3) Queensland Health is unable to provide data on the number of doctors who have made statements similar to Dr McAllister in their resignations as this information is not centrally collected.

ATTACHMENT

Total headcount, separations (seps) and net increases of Medical Officers employed by Queensland Health Between June 2005 and September 2008												
Headcount June 2005	Seps	Net Increase	Headcount June 2006	Seps	Net Increase	Headcount June 2007	Seps	Net Increase	Headcount June 2008	Seps	Net Increase	Headcount September 2008
4,552	863	311 (6.8%)	4,863	773	738 (15%)	5,601	864	551 (10%)	6,152	196	75 (1.2%)	6,227