

Question on Notice
No. 1771
Asked on 13 November 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will he detail (a) the total payments and reimbursements paid to each member of the Health Consumers Queensland Ministerial Consumer Advisory Committee (listed separately for each member) and (b) the total payments and reimbursements paid to each member of the Bundaberg Health Community Council (reported separately for each member)?

ANSWER:

I welcome the opportunity to acknowledge those Queensland health consumers and community members who give of their time, knowledge and expertise to improve the quality and effectiveness of Queensland's health systems and services. They do this through their membership of Health Consumers Queensland's statewide Ministerial Consumer Advisory Committee, and the 36 Health Community Councils which operate throughout the State.

The establishment of Health Consumers Queensland (HCQ) delivers on recommendations for a Queensland health consumer body by the Forster Report, and the Government's 2006 election commitment to give health service users a strong voice in health policy development and planning. HCQ comprises a Ministerial Consumer Advisory Committee and is supported by the Director-General of Health through a Secretariat located in his office.

HCQ was established to contribute to the continued development and reform of health systems and services in Queensland, by providing the Minister for Health with information and advice from a consumer perspective, and supporting and promoting consumer engagement and advocacy. HCQ's key role is to strengthen the consumer perspective in health services policy, systems and service reform and improvement.

Remuneration to 17 November 2008 for all the members of the HCQ Ministerial Consumer Advisory Committee is a total of \$11,226.35. Remuneration of the Committee will in future be reported in the Queensland Health annual report.

The 36 annual reports for the Health Community Councils were tabled in Parliament on 12 November 2008. The reports detail the first year of operation of the Councils, and their role in strengthening community input into the delivery of district public sector health services. They do this through undertaking community engagement and community education activities and monitoring the quality, safety and effectiveness of district public sector health services. The annual reports outline the budget expenditure for each Health Community Council including chairperson fees, members fees and other costs and are available on the Queensland Health website.

Appointments to both bodies are significant appointments and remuneration reflects the Government's Remuneration Policy – Level F1: Focused impact on a specific target group or industry. Remuneration is calculated to reflect the total number of meetings attended and special assignments undertaken by each member, as well as allowances paid for travel and sundry expenses.

Remuneration is a modest acknowledgement of the time, expertise, skill and the value the Government places on the participation of these committed citizens in making a better health system in Queensland.