

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 622**  
**Asked on 29 April 2008**

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

QUESTION:

With regard to children treated in Queensland Health facilities—

- (1) How many children aged 12, 13, 14 and 15 years old (reported separately by district and region) have received contraceptive implants such as ‘Implanon’ in 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 to date (reported separately)?
- (2) How many children aged 12, 13, 14 and 15 years old have been diagnosed with one or more sexually transmitted diseases in 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 to date (reported separately by district and region)?

ANSWER:

- (1) Queensland Health does not centrally collate data regarding the number of women who have received contraceptive implants and as such, does not have a record of the number of girls under 16 who have contraceptive implants.

To provide this information, clinicians in health facilities across Queensland, including rural and remote areas, would have to interrogate each patient file, file by file. This would be an unreasonable use of valuable clinical resources and could impact negatively on patient care.

Under the *Child Protection Act 1999* all registered nurses and doctors are required by law to report reasonable suspicions of harm or risk of harm to children and young people under the age of 18 years to the Department of Child Safety. Queensland Health policy supports staff to determine if a child has been or is at risk of harm as a result of engaging in sexual activity. The policy allows clinical discretion in relation to over 14 year old children as it is generally acknowledged that not all sexual activity in this age group is considered child abuse or neglect.

To ensure that the most vulnerable children are protected, the Queensland Health policy removes clinician discretion for determining if abuse or neglect has occurred in children under the age of 14 and it is mandatory for all Queensland Health clinicians to report all children under 14 engaging in sexual activity to the Department of Child Safety.

- (2) Queensland Health cannot provide data on the numbers of children with sexually transmitted infections (STI) – only the numbers of notification by each disease – i.e. a child with concurrent Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea infections will appear in both the Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea count. Sexually transmitted infections notification data includes both the public and private sector information.

Queensland Health will not provide details by individual age by district or area as these numbers are small and therefore potentially identifiable.

The attachment shows sexually transmitted infections notifications in the 10–14 age group for Queensland 2005–2007.

## ATTACHMENT

### Sexually Transmissible Notifications Numbers for Queensland 2005-2007

Table 1: Chlamydia (STI) notifications in Queensland for 2005-2007			
	2005	2006	2007
10-14 Age Group	133	162	170

Table 2: Gonorrhoea (STI) notifications in Queensland for 2005-2007			
	2005	2006	2007
10-14 Age Group	47	40	42

Table 3: Syphilis (STI) notifications in Queensland for 2005-2007			
	2005	2006	2007
10-14 Age Group	5	3	2

NOTE: The data was extracted from the Queensland Health Notifiable Conditions System (NOCS) on 24 April 2008 by notification and onset date.