

Question on Notice
No. 1251
Asked on 16 September 2009

MR MCARDLE asked the DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR HEALTH (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier advise for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (a) the number of nurses who have left the employ of Queensland Health permanently, (b) whether Queensland Health has undertaken exit surveys for nursing staff permanently leaving the employ of Queensland Health to identify reasons for doing so and if so (c) a breakdown of the reasons provided in each year (each year reported separately for each question)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Caloundra for his question.

I am advised that each District undertakes exit surveys with staff who cease employment with Queensland Health.

The reasons provided by staff for leaving vary widely, including personal circumstances such as moving towns or starting a family, and accepting another position in another District, another State or in the private sector.

It is not uncommon for staff to leave and come back. Many nurses presently employed by Queensland Health have returned after a period of working outside the public system, or working in another field or another jurisdiction.

Therefore, it is not possible to accurately state which staff that have left the employ of Queensland Health during any particular year, have left permanently.

However, I am able to advise that Queensland Health has experienced a net increase in nurse staffing numbers in each of the years enquired about.

The nursing occupational headcount rose by 617 extra nurses in 2004-05, 1358 extra nurses in 2005-06, 2102 extra nurses in 2006-07, 1753 extra nurses in 2007-08, and 2359 extra nurses in 2008-09.

These extra nurses show the Bligh Government's commitment to providing better health services for Queenslanders. We promised extra nurses would be employed during each of the election campaigns in 2004, 2006 and 2009 and these figures clearly demonstrate we have delivered.