

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1700**  
**Asked on 10 November 2009**

MR EMERSON asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to graduate nursing programs—

- (1) How many persons submitted applications for graduate registered nurse positions in Queensland Health facilities in 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported separately)?
- (2) How many of the applicants identified in (1) successfully obtained a graduate registered nurse position in a Queensland Health facility in 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported separately)

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Indooroopilly for his question.

Since 2005, the Queensland Government has hired an additional 7931 nurses in Queensland Health. That's an increase of 36 % in less than five years.

There is a growing demand for graduate nurse positions each year, with a 50% increase in applications received by graduate nurses through the online recruitment tool from the start of year 2007 to start of year 2010.

Graduate nursing positions in Queensland Health are in demand.

The respective figures for successful appointments and applications respectively for each of the years requested are as follows: 743 and 952 in 2005-06; 1022 and 1340 in 2006-07; 1091 and 1685 in 2007-08; 1189 and 1812 in 2008-09.

The Bligh Government is increasing the numbers of nurses, including the numbers of graduate nurses, in Queensland Health. By contrast, the Liberal National Party Opposition in Queensland went to the last election with a plan to cut the Queensland Health Budget and cut jobs in Queensland Health.

If the LNP was in Government, not only would there be fewer nurses in Queensland's hospitals, but they would be diverted from their frontline duties caring for patients to do paperwork because of the LNP job cuts.