

Question on Notice
No. 1051
Asked on 17 June 2011

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Health (MR WILSON)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail (reported separately for the last five years) the total number of overseas trained doctors employed by Queensland Health, as well as the number, proportion and country of origin of the overseas resident medical officers in each Queensland public hospital, including Bundaberg Base Hospital?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Burnett for his question.

I am advised that Queensland Health does not employ any medical staff who have not satisfied the Australian Medical Board that they are qualified, skilled and suitable to practise medicine.

I am further advised, Queensland Health employs a number of clinical staff who have worked and trained in some of the world's leading medical institutions, including those in the UK, USA, Germany, Ireland, India and South Africa.

Queensland Health also, actively recruits staff from around the world who have completed the requirements of the Australian Medical Board registration requirements. In fact, many junior medical staff choose to travel overseas to gain experience and training in some of the world's leading hospitals and universities. Others complete a period of training or study overseas while completing specialist qualifications or conducting research, and then bring their expertise back from overseas and use it for the benefit of patients right here in Queensland.

However, I am further advised, while training and work experience are noted on each employee's file, Queensland Health does not maintain a list of staff who have had overseas training or experience.

I am advised that all Queensland Health employed doctors have satisfied the registration requirements of the Australian national registration scheme for the work they do.

Further, Queensland public hospitals are training more interns than at any time in the history of Queensland's public health system. Since 2005, the number of interns trained locally each year has more than doubled. Our public hospitals have committed to offering training places to every Australian or New Zealand resident who completes their medical degree at a Queensland University.