

Question on Notice
No. 354
Asked on 23 March 2011

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the increasing shortage of nursing staff across the state, and as graduating nurses are finding it difficult to secure positions within hospitals due to not having enough practical training -

What methods will the Minister implement to ensure adequate practical training to enhance nurses' chances of (a) employment within the public health system and (b) increasing the numbers of nurses available in regional areas?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Maryborough for his question.

I am advised that Queensland Health is not presently experiencing a state-wide shortage of nurses for available positions.

Further, in recent years the Queensland Government has massively increased in the number of nursing positions – as well as doctors and allied health professionals- employed in our hospitals. Overall, we have hired an additional 4700 clinical staff since March 2009; that is 1200 more than we promised.

At the Member's local hospital at Maryborough, an extra 71 nursing positions were created between 2005 and 2010. That's a 44% increase in nurse numbers in only five years.