

Question on Notice
No. 440
Asked on 5 June 2013

MR WATTS asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Have Queensland Health payroll staff been balloted recently in relation to their 2011 payroll agreement and, if so, what was the outcome of that ballot?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Toowoomba North for his question.

In late April, Queensland Health balloted all Payroll Services' staff as part of the consultation process on management's proposal for improved career paths and professional development opportunities with more than 100 temporary roles to be made permanent.

While such a ballot is not usual as part of these consultation processes, a majority of staff who voted supported management's proposal to replace those outstanding provisions of the 2011 payroll deal between the previous government and the union Together Queensland.

Under the deal, the previous government conferred on payroll employees extraordinary benefits including a \$5000 bonus and direct appointment of 207 employees to personal classifications. This at a time when the previous government health payroll debacle was haemorrhaging \$1.2B.

It is a credit to the long-sightedness and commitment of our Payroll Services employees who recently voted in favour of the management proposal. They understood that to implement the outstanding provisions of the 2011 deal would cost more than \$18M over three years, immediately resulting in the loss of about 80 positions to fund the arrangements and threaten the future sustainability of Queensland Health's payroll unit.

Queensland Health has now terminated the 2011 deal and is proceeding to implement the proposal in line with the majority view of our employees.