

**Question on Notice  
No. 659  
Asked on 11 September 2013**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to medical positions at the Cairns Base Hospital that have been approved but not yet filled (for example, a plastic surgeon) and replacements of other medical professional positions -

- (1) What steps have been put in place to ensure that a replacement for an oncology specialist who recently resigned, is rapidly filled so that oncology patients in Far North Queensland can be treated quickly?
- (2) When will an additional neurologist be appointed to begin treating the 1,000 patient backlog, as well as those already being treated?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Honourable Member for Dalrymple for his question.

- (1) I am advised that there have been no recent resignations of oncology specialists and that all approved positions are currently filled.
- (2) I am advised that the recruitment process for a second neurologist was not completed as the applicant withdrew for personal reasons just prior to their commencement. As a result, a new recruitment process has now commenced. I am further advised that a second neurologist will be in place in a locum capacity from September to November 2013, with the potential for extension after that period.