

**Question on Notice
No. 93
Asked on 4 March 2014**

MRS MILLER asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the projected growth in population in Queensland in the coming years and the need for increased staffing to maintain services—

Will the Minister provide details of the projected number of doctors and nurses (all classifications and categories, FTE and head count) to be employed by the Department of Health and Hospital and Health Services in the current financial year and for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (with each HHS listed separately for each year)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Bundamba for her question.

Queensland Health employs a sufficient number of staff each year to ensure that the approved staffing levels are maintained, inclusive of additional staffing enhancements and increased service level requirements. It should be noted that enhancements to approved staffing levels are announced as part of the budget cycle each financial year. As such, Queensland Health is only able to advise of staffing levels for the current 2013-14 financial year. Staffing levels for the 2014-15 financial year will be announced in the 2014-15 budget cycle.

In line with the key principles of the *Blueprint for better health care in Queensland*, orientating health services to better meet local health needs is a priority for all Hospital and Health Services (HHSs). Hospital and Health Services are no longer constrained by historical patterns of service delivery. Within the context of statewide planning objectives and local factors such as geographic location, workforce supply and access to infrastructure and equipment, they have flexibility to consult the community and determine the best mix of health service.

It is expected that full time equivalent levels will increase at a lower rate than the increase in Queensland Health funding across the forward estimates as the Department of Health and HHSs may elect to deliver additional public health services under arrangements with the private sector and/or non-government organisations.

In addition, the implementation of reforms underway, including contestability, may offset increases in public sector full time equivalent levels.

The attached table contains information pertaining to the current number of full time equivalent medical and nursing staff employed (as at pay fortnight ending 16 February 2014).

ATTACHMENT

	Staffing Levels – Fortnight Ending 16 February 2014		
	MOHRI Occupied FTE		
	Total Medical and Nursing	Nursing	Medical incl. VMOs
Cairns and Hinterland	2,115	1,718	396
Cape York	153	139	15
Central Queensland	1,364	1,141	223
Central West	163	149	15
Children's	1,019	790	229
Darling Downs	2,018	1,704	314
Gold Coast	3,260	2,422	839
Mackay	918	716	201
Metro North	7,092	5,424	1,668
Metro South	6,067	4,568	1,499
North West	304	253	52
South West	335	316	18
Sunshine Coast	2,042	1,531	510
Torres Strait	132	120	12
Townsville	2,544	1,999	545
West Moreton	1,462	1,172	290
Wide Bay	1,445	1,141	304
Hospital & Health Services	32,433	25,303	7,130
Department of Health	325	161	164
Total (Excluding QAS)	32,758	25,464	7,294

Note: Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has not been included in the above totals.