

Question on Notice
No. 97
Asked on 4 March 2014

MS D'ATH asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to staffing at the Redcliffe Hospital—

Will the Minister provide for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 (to date) a detailed list of (a) all permanent positions that were made redundant, (b) all permanent positions currently vacant, (c) all casual positions that were cancelled or not filled (d) all temporary positions that were cancelled or not filled and (e) any positions proposed to be filled and then cancelled (each year listed separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Redcliffe for her question.

With the introduction of Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), which are managed by independent Boards, the management of the workforce has been a responsibility of the HHSs.

The Boards are responsible for management of the workforce in the broader context of their budget. Whilst the State Government increased the budget allocated to the Metro North HHS the Federal Government, of which the Honourable Member was part thereof, actually cut \$22 million of funding from Metro North HHS in the 2012-2013 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO). The impact of this cut contributed significantly to Metro North HHS having to reduce workforce numbers. Due to the Federal Labor's funding reduction, I can advise:

- (a) 39.31 positions have been made redundant.
- (b) Eight positions are vacant and being recruited to.
- (c) No casual positions were cancelled or not filled.

Furthermore:

- (a) I am advised that there were a number of temporary nursing positions, each linked to temporary funding cancelled or not filled, however, as a rule, these were funded project positions which were discontinued at the end of the project. No front line temporary positions have been created or deleted.
- (b) I am advised that in 2012, 8.84 additional Registered Nurse positions proposed for the paediatric Short Stay Unit were redeployed or reduced through attrition. This is because the Unit was opened and funded at 16 beds, however due to low occupancy rates, the service has been able to operate efficiently at 10 beds. Also, in 2012, one Psychology position was not filled.