

Question on Notice
No. 1447
Asked on 30 August 2016

MS HOWARD asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK) –

Will the Minister outline the role of Nurse Navigators in Queensland hospitals and how many of those positions have been filled in Queensland and in particular in my electorate of Ipswich?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Ipswich for her question.

The Government has committed \$101.6 million to support the recruitment of 400 additional nurses to assist patients to navigate the health care system from their referring health care provider, through an increasingly complex health system, to recovery at home.

Nurse navigators have been allocated across the 16 Hospital and Health Services based on identified areas of priority need, taking into account factors such as population, the level of chronic illnesses, service need and intra/interstate patient flows.

The nurse navigator roles are clinical roles held by experienced nurses with expert clinical knowledge and in-depth understanding of the health system. The role facilitates the patient journey by reducing fragmentation, over-servicing, mitigating barriers, educating and empowering patients and coordinating patient care.

I am advised that as of 2 September 2016, five nurse navigators have been employed at West Moreton Hospital and Health Service which includes Ipswich. I am further advised that another 16 nurse navigators are to be employed at West Moreton Hospital and Health Service in the future.