

Question on Notice

No. 353

Asked on Thursday, 22 March 2018

MR M HUNT ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the distribution of gross take home remuneration for Queensland Rail Traincrew (reported separately by gender and grouped to ranges of five thousand dollars)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nicklin for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to fixing the trains. We are implementing all 36 recommendations from the *Queensland Rail Train Crewing Practices Commission of Inquiry* (Strachan inquiry) with 17 already completed. This includes streamlining training, which is vital in securing the additional 200 drivers and 200 guards required, and ensuring a pipeline of talent for the future.

The Strachan inquiry recommended that Queensland Rail deliver and maintain a structural surplus of traincrew to reduce the reliance on overtime. Queensland Rail is working hard to recruit additional traincrew and has already reduced the level of overtime for traincrew.

Train drivers and guards are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of up to 1000 customers at any one time. They are required to work weekends and public holidays and to do shift work, and are remunerated accordingly for this time away from family when most people are at home or enjoying time off. There is an expectation that they are resilient and adaptable, with the ability to problem solve during unplanned disruptions, critical incidents and emergency situations. It is not mandatory for them to work overtime.

The base salary and the conditions that determine allowances and overtime for all Queensland Rail's traincrew (Citytrain and Regional) are set out in the *Queensland Rail Traincrew Enterprise Agreement 2017*.

Remuneration is derived from the enterprise agreement classification structure which is set on a basis of parity regardless of gender. Any difference in remuneration for traincrew, regardless of their gender, outside of the classification structure is due to shift, weekend and public holiday penalty rates and availability to work overtime.

Queensland Rail's history dates back to 1865, and as there is no timeframe provided in the question, it is unreasonable to request that Queensland Rail provides this data for the last 153 years.