

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 506

asked on 3 May 2018

MS F SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION: With reference to the Cairns region—

Will the Minister advise (a) the employment figures for that region and (b) the percentage of people that are employed by the Queensland Government and by Government Owned Corporations compared to the percentage of people employed in private industry?

ANSWER:

(a) Cairns employment figures

As at April 2018, the Cairns SA4 had an unemployment rate of 6.3 per cent, a decrease of 0.9 per cent over the year.

This compares to 7.9% in January 2015.

The number of employed persons in Cairns SA4 at April 2018 was 117,000 persons, an increase of 4,900 employed persons, or 4.3 per cent over the year.

(b) the percentage of people employed by the Queensland Government and by Government Owned Corporations compared to the percentage of people employed in private industry

Due to differences in the collection of data on public and private sector employment, it is not possible to provide a percentage of the Cairns SA4 employed in the Queensland Government public sector compared to the private sector.

Information on the number of employed persons in Australia is collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). ABS data on public sector employment is also not disaggregated below State level and captures employment across all levels of government (commonwealth, state and local government).

Taking into consideration the above, the ABS estimate of the number of persons engaged in the public sector in Queensland in local, state and commonwealth governments was 351,900 persons in March quarter 2018 (four-quarter average). This equates to 14.4% of total employed persons in the State.

The Queensland Public Service Commission publishes data on the profile of the Queensland public sector every quarter. The *Queensland Public Sector Quarterly Workforce Profile* can be found online on the Queensland Government website at

<https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/queensland-public-service-workforce-statistics>.

However this data is not comparable to the data collected by the ABS as it is reported by FTE, rather than headcount used by ABS.

As at December 2017 there were 13,034.89 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Queensland Government public sector employees in the Cairns SA4.

At the same period, it is estimated that there were 870 FTEs employed by Government Owned Corporations (including statutory authorities) in the Cairns SA4.