

Question on Notice
No. 626
Asked on 16 May 2018

MR J KRAUSE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise for the past year (a) how many workplace inspectors have resigned and taken stress leave or sought transfer and (b) of these how many cited abuse by unions as a cause?

ANSWER:

Inspectors have a difficult job. As with other first responders employed by the Government, such as police and paramedics, inspectors are often required to attend horrific and confronting situations involving fatalities and serious injuries.

Inspectors also deal regularly with highly emotive situations concerning worker safety. The Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) provides its employees with an Employee Assistance Program, which provides free and confidential counselling to workers and their immediate family. I am advised that OIR is currently considering a number of initiatives to further the support available to inspectors.

During the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, three inspectors in OIR resigned and one inspector transferred out of the position. Six workplace inspectors applied for sick leave due to illness reported as being caused by workplace stress. Two of these inspectors initially applied for temporary transfers before taking leave. Four of the inspectors have since recovered from their illness and returned to their substantive roles. Two inspectors remain off duty due to their illness.

None of the inspectors above cited abuse by unions as a cause for their illness.

As at March 2018, there were 45.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) Electrical Safety Inspectors and 248.55 FTE Work Health and Safety Queensland Inspectors employed within the OIR.