

Question on Notice

No. 174

Asked on 18 February 2020

MS R BATES asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to data that is not reported in annual reports—

Will the Minister advise the litigation costs for Queensland Health and each Hospital and Health Services for each year from 2015-16 to 2018-19 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER

All expenditure for Queensland Health and each Hospital and Health Service is provided in the relevant annual reports, which is independently audited by the Queensland Audit Office.

The Department of Health has advised that it is not appropriate to provide the litigation costs separately for each Hospital and Health Service (HHS) due to:

- Privacy and confidentiality provisions under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, as individual payments may be identifiable (particularly for smaller HHSs); and
- Payments being subject to deeds of confidentiality (i.e. settlement agreements with strict confidentiality clauses that both parties to the agreement are subject to).

The following table shows the consolidated litigation costs for Queensland Health:

Financial year	Litigation costs
2015-16	\$1,940,611.57
2016-17	\$195,575.20
2017-18	\$791,363.47
2018-19	\$443,848.89