

Question on Notice

No. 1163

Asked on 12 October 2021

MR A POWELL ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to foreign doctors and their families being flown in to work in Queensland hospitals—

Will the Minister outline how many doctors have been flown in from 1 July 2021 to date on (a) business class flights, (b) economy class flights, (c) date of flight and (d) on which airline/s?

ANSWER

I am advised Queensland Health is committed to self-sufficiency of the medical practitioner workforce; however, there continues to be a need to supplement the workforce with international medical graduates (IMGs). IMGs are recruited to positions that are unable to be filled with Australian trained doctors. IMGs form an important part of the medical workforce and are critical to ensuring delivery of medical care in Queensland especially in regional, rural and remote communities.

I am further advised to address supply challenges Queensland Health is pursuing opportunities to grow its own health workforce, better align education to employment, strengthen workforce information systems to improve planning and increase employment participation of First Nations people.

With respect to the Member's questions, I have been advised as follows:

(a) 63 doctors occupied a business class seat.

(b) 33 doctors occupied an economy class seat.

(c) The date of the flight for the doctors included in (a) and (b):

Date - 2021	No. of doctors
1 July	1
2 July	1
3 July	1
10 July	1
13 July	1
14 July	2
15 July	1
19 July	2
22 July	2

23 July	1
29 July	3
1 August	1
2 August	2
3 August	1
4 August	1
6 August	2
10 August	2
11 August	1
13 August	3
15 August	2
16 August	1
18 August	1
21 August	1
24 August	2
25 August	2
26 August	1
27 August	1
28 August	3
29 August	1
30 August	1
31 August	1
2 September	1
3 September	3
4 September	1
5 September	1
7 September	1
8 September	1
9 September	3
10 September	3
11 September	1
12 September	3
13 September	1
16 September	2
17 September	2
18 September	2
20 September	3
24 September	4
25 September	2
27 September	2
29 September	1
1 October	2
2 October	1
6 October	5
11 October	2
12 October	3

(d) The airlines for the doctors included in (a) and (b):

Airline	No. of doctors
Air Lingus	1
Air Nuigini	1
Air Canada	1
British Airways	5
Cathay Pacific	1
Emirates	6
Etihad	20
Gulf Air	2
Japan	1
Jetstar	2
Lufthansa	1
Malaysia	1
Virgin	12
Qantas	5
QATAR	19
Singapore	28
Sri Lankan	4

Notes:

- Data has been provided by Hospital and Health Services (HHSs).
- Data provided is based on flights during the time period 1 July to 12 October 2021.
- Some flights included multiple legs, with different airlines. Consequently, the response to (d) is greater than the responses to (a), (b) and (c).
- As per Transfer and Appointment Expenses Directive No. 11/11, an employee must provide documentary evidence of an expense before reimbursement of an expense or payment of an allowance may be authorised. Unless the chief executive considers that there are special circumstances, a claim is not to be paid unless it is submitted within 12 months of the latest of the following occurrences:
 - o the incurring of the expense;
 - o the conclusion of the circumstances leading to the claim.
- Consequently, the data provided is preliminary and subject to change as there could be outstanding claim requests yet to be submitted to HHSs.
- Furthermore, some doctors may decide not to submit a claim (for all or part of their travel expenses).