

Question on Notice

No. 261

Asked on 29 March 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to the recent hearings in Bundaberg when the Health and Environment Committee heard submissions that Bundaberg Hospital has trainee medical students commencing but no information on who will train them once they are placed, and with no Professorships funded to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—

Will the Minister advise (a) whether this burden and responsibility will fall to existing senior doctors at the Hospital, (b) whether, in accordance with Queensland Health's Clinical Services Capability Framework, this will take thirty percent of senior doctors' productive time, and (c) whether this will lead to elective surgery waiting lists increasing?

ANSWER

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service has been providing Phase 2 (years 3 and 4) clinical placements to medical students at Bundaberg Hospital for many years. These placements are a normal business function which forms part of a historical partnership with the University of Queensland's Rural Clinical School. Training and supervision are provided by experienced senior and junior clinicians, noting senior clinicians receive clinical support time to facilitate these responsibilities. Many of the UQ clinical academics also hold concurrent appointments with Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service values and recognises this partnership, and that it helps to create a more sustainable medical workforce as doctors who have trained in regional hospitals are more likely to continue to work in them. This will benefit Bundaberg Hospital in the provision of services.

Queensland Health Medical Officers operate under the Medical Officers' Certified Agreement (No. 5) 2018 (MOCA5) (11.20.4 and 11.20.5).

Under the Agreement Queensland Health Medical Officers are required to undertake supervisory and teaching responsibilities, the Agreement stipulates a minimum requirement of 10 percent clinical support time. I am advised Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service operate within this requirement.

The Clinical Services Capability Framework (CSCF) is a suite of documents describing clinical and support services by service capability level. Each module relates to a specific service (e.g., intensive care, renal, pathology) and describes minimum capability requirements for that service by capability level. The CSCF Modules accordingly do not stipulate the commitments, of a Medical Officer, to be allocated for training medical students.

As clinical support time is accounted for under the Medical Officers' Certified Agreement, training of medical students will not impact the elective surgery waiting list.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service is engaged in a Regional Medical Pathway: a unique and powerful partnership between CQUniversity, The University of Queensland, and the Central Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services.

This pathway enables medical students to complete the entirety of their education within Wide Bay and Central Queensland, producing 'home grown doctors'. CQUniversity Australia accepted its first intake of students on the Regional Medical Pathway this year.