

Question on Notice
No. 337
Asked on 31 March 2022

Mr R Stevens asked Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to public servants stood down with pay—

Will the Premier advise (a) how many public servants have been stood down with pay in each financial year since 2015-16, (b) the amount paid out to public servants while suspended each year since 2015-16 and (c) the greatest length of time a public servant has been stood down with pay between 2015-16 and today?

ANSWER:

I am advised by my Department that suspension data is collected by the Public Service Commission and includes data for public servants, health staff employed under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* and does not include sworn police officers.

Suspension figures and costs for all financial years include corrupt conduct matters referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

- (a) I am advised that the number of Queensland public sector employees suspended on pay each financial year is 2015-16 – 327; 2016-17 – 301; 2017-18 – 306; 2018-19 – 401; 2019-20 – 446; and 2020-21 – 474.
- (b) I am advised that the cost of suspensions in the Queensland public sector for each financial year is 2015-16 – \$9,201,987; 2016-17 – \$9,683,663; 2017-18 – \$10,258,082; 2018-19 – \$15,467,679; 2019-20 – \$21,534,262; and 2020-21 – \$22,321,824.
- (c) I am advised that the reporting data for suspensions prior to 1 January 2021 were reported against a time range, for example, between 3 and 6 months duration or greater than 12 months duration. For this reason, it is not possible to identify the longest paid suspension since 2015-16.