

Question on Notice

No. 440

Asked on 12 May 2022

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

QUESTION

With reference to currently vacant medical stream positions in Queensland Health—
Will the Minister provide the longest time a position has been vacant (reported separately by each hospital and health service)?

ANSWER

I have been advised, a position recorded as vacant on the department's HR system does not necessarily reflect a position is not occupied, they may be occupied via a locum arrangement or as an independent Visiting Medical Officer.

I am advised the longest current vacant senior medical positions for each Hospital and Health Service is listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Longest Vacant Senior Medical Positions for each Hospital and Health Service

Senior Medical Officers	Staff Classification	Years since Permanent Occupant Category
Cairns and Hinterland	Medical Senior Officer	2 Years to 3 Years
Central Queensland	Medical Staff Specialist	2 Years to 3 Years
Central West	Medical Senior Officer	2 Years to 3 Years
Children's Health Qld	Medical Staff Specialists	2 Years to 3 Years
Darling Downs	Medical Staff Specialist	2 Years to 3 Years
Gold Coast	Medical Staff Specialist	6 Months to 9 Months
Mackay	Medical Senior Officer	2 Years to 3 Years
Metro North	Medical Staff Specialists	2 Years to 3 Years
Metro South	Medical Staff Specialists	2 Years to 3 Years
North West	Medical Senior Officer	2 Years to 3 Years
South West	Medical Senior Officer	2 Years to 3 Years
Sunshine Coast	Medical Staff Specialist	1 Year to 2 Years
Torres and Cape	Medical Senior Officer	1 Year to 2 Years
Townsville	Medical Staff Specialist	1 Year to 2 Years
West Moreton	Medical Staff Specialist	1 Year to 2 Years
Wide Bay	Medical Senior Officer	1 Year to 2 Years

Source: Decision Support System (DSS) as at 1 May 2022.

Note: Data includes permanent Medical Officer positions only.

Hospital and Health Services are responsible for making local determinations as to how vacancies are filled. Locums are routinely engaged to temporarily fill a vacancy to address local critical workforce shortages, to ensure the people of Queensland continue to receive the care that they need whilst permanent recruitment is underway.

It is noted that recruitment can take between 6 and 12 months with annual intake cycles and comprehensive screening processes, particularly for international applicants.

It is a key priority of Queensland Health to ensure there is a highly skilled medical practitioner workforce in the right numbers and in the right places to meet the current and future health needs of the Queensland community.

Due to high competition in the domestic market, an international Recruitment Campaign has commenced to complement local efforts to address critical medical workforce shortages.