

## Question on Notice

No. 979

Asked on 1 September 2022

**DR A MACMAHON** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

### QUESTION

With reference to many healthcare workers planning to leave the sector in the coming years—

Will the Minister advise if the government will offer free university degrees to study nursing, as is being rolled out in Victoria?

### ANSWER

As advised in the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, the Palaszczuk Government has recruited more than 15,000 frontline health workers since coming to Government in 2015, with strong progress being made on the commitment to recruit 9,475 frontline health workers in this term of Government.

Queensland already provides a range of incentives to attract and retain nurses, particularly in rural and remote areas.

These include free or subsidised accommodation, up to \$2,500 in professional development allowance and bonus payments based on length of service.

We are hiring an additional 770 nursing graduates in 2022/2023, on top of our existing annual intake, as well as an additional 100 clinical facilitators for this same period.

Importantly, Queensland has also been working with stakeholders on other opportunities at our Queensland Health Workforce Summit which occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

The Summit sought ideas from a wide array of stakeholders on ways to increase staff levels, develop more First Nations health workers and adapt to new models of care to achieve a sustainable workforce

Work is also occurring at a national level, to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to fostering workforce capacity across Australia.

Given the work currently being undertaken to address workforce capacity at a state and national level no decision has been made in relation to free university degree to study nursing.