

Question on Notice

No. 1135

Asked on 14 September 2023

MR J LISTER ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Minister's Media Statement of 17 July relating to Maternity Service initiatives—

Will the Minister provide (a) the number of regional, rural or remote GPs undertaking advanced obstetrics training in one of the 20 funded positions and when these GPs are likely to have completed the training, (b) whether there is any obligation (contractual or otherwise) for the 20 GPs receiving funding for the training to practice in a specified location set by Queensland Health on completion of the training, (c) when the 'digital passport' system is expected to be operational and (d) when the review of locum policies is anticipated to be completed and if the review report will be made public?

ANSWER

I am advised by the department of the following:

- (a) The Department is working with stakeholders including the Queensland Rural Medical Service, Rural Doctors Association of Queensland and the Australian Medical Association Queensland to develop the parameters of the program and promote the training. Intake for advanced obstetrics training occurs annually. The first cohort of doctors eligible for the incentive will commence training in February 2024.
- (b) There are no requirements for candidates to practice in particular regions of Queensland. It is anticipated that as part of the participant selection process, participants already living in regional and rural locations will be prioritised, in recognition that upon completion, these candidates are more likely to remain in these regions. Advice received from stakeholders indicates that including a requirement for candidates to work in particular locations upon completion of funded training can act as a disincentive to uptake.
- (c) In relation to the digital passport, Tranche one being the release of a minimum viable product for the medical workforce (visiting medical officers, senior medical officers, and resident medical officers) is currently being piloted by five Hospital and Health Services (Children's Health Queensland, Darling Downs, Metro South, Torres and Cape, and West Moreton).
- (d) The review of the locum policy is expected to be finalised during November 2023. I am advised that consultative feedback on Human Resource Policies are not ordinarily made available to the public.