

Question on Notice

No. 1142

Asked on 14 September 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to reports that nurses and health care workers have been stood down for refusing to be Covid vaccinated and for failing to follow health directives—

Will the Minister advise whether these Queensland Health staff will be actively recruited back to work and resume duties with full pay and benefits considering the WHO declared an end to the worldwide Emergency for Covid on 5 May 2023 and the Minister's announcement that the Covid Mandate may be lifted after a short consultation period?

ANSWER

On 21 September 2023, following a two-week period of consultation, the Director-General, Queensland Health announced his decision to repeal the Employment Directive and policies requiring mandatory vaccination for Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance staff.

The repeal of the Directive does not absolve employees who failed to comply with it while it was in force. These employees may still be subject to disciplinary action and individual matters will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In circumstances where an employee has been suspended in relation to their failure to comply with the Directive, decisions relating to the cancellation or continuation of a suspension will be considered by the relevant decision maker, also on a case-by-case basis.

It is open to any former employee of Queensland Health or Queensland Ambulance, including those who have been dismissed for failing to follow the Directive, to apply for roles within Queensland Health and/or Queensland Ambulance.

If re-employed, an employee would receive terms and conditions of employment applicable under the relevant Award and Agreement of the specific role to which they are being appointed.