

Question on Notice

No. 1273

Asked on 24 October 2023

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) how many new doctors the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service has recruited during the quarter July to September 2023, (b) what grades are these doctors, (c) where is each doctor from and (d) how many of these doctors required training to work in Australia, or have restrictions on practice in Australia?

ANSWER

I am advised that Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (Wide Bay HHS) has recruited 59 new doctors to the Wide Bay region.

These new doctors are of various grades, as follows:

- Director Medical Services (DMS): 1
- Visiting Medical Officer (VMO): 8
- Senior Medical Officer (SMO): 3
- Medical Officer with rights to Private Practice: 1
- Principle House Officer (PHO): 10
- Senior Registrar: 2
- Registrar: 15
- Resident Medical Officer: 19

Of these doctors 29 are Australian Graduates and 30 international medical graduates (IMG). Of the IMG doctors 25 required additional training to work in Australia, and 25 currently have restrictions in their practice.

I note that all doctors in Australia require ongoing training to maintain specialist vocational registration. Equally, prior to general registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency, both Australian and international medical graduates practice under limited and provisional registration, under supervision.

I'm advised that while the national process for an international medical graduate to enter and work in Australia can depend on their specialty, it includes a range of checks:

- Presentation of primary medical qualification from their country of origin
- Presentation of post-graduate or specialist qualifications
- Presentation of a certificate of good standing (from past employers)
- Presentations of identification documents
- Australian Medical Council verification
- Testing – including passing the Australian Medical Council test.

- Specialist assessment if applicable – including passing relevant specialist college applications and undergoing college interviews.

Training and accreditation for international medical graduates is managed nationally to ensure the community can have confidence in the quality of care. Arrangements for overseas-trained doctors often includes specific extra assessment and training required by the relevant specialist college.