

## Question on Notice

No. 1433

Asked on 15 November 2023

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

### QUESTION

With reference to Wide Bay and North Burnett, and the fact there are only two MMM4+ training locations in this entire region with sufficient supervisory capacity to accept training GPs—

Will the Minister review Queensland Health practices and policies on contractual matters such as Senior Medical Officer appointments, including the outdated MORPP model, which has resulted in difficulty in attracting and retaining medical staff in our rural towns?

### ANSWER

I am advised that within the Queensland public sector, rural doctors are most frequently engaged by Hospital and Health Services under two models. The first model engages Senior Medical Officers (SMOs), while the second model engages Medical Officers with Private Practice (MOPPs) and Medical Superintendents with Private Practice (MSPPs) – collectively referred to as Medical Practitioners with Private Practice (MPPPs).

Terms and conditions of employment for SMOs and MPPPs are provided in the Medical Officers' (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 6) 2022 (MOCA6), and the Medical Officers (Queensland Health) Award State 2015 (the Award). MOCA6 provides improved entitlements for recognised rural generalist practitioners who work in MMM3-7 facilities.

Competition and demand for medical officers is at an all-time high, and Queensland Health is working with Hospital and Health Services to ensure that we are an Employer of Choice. We are committed to building opportunities to support and retain the existing workforce, growing our workforce supply, and implementing innovative ways of working in health.

I am also advised that Queensland Health continues to work with the Commonwealth on initiatives that will aim to ensure that general practices in our rural and remote communities can thrive, as it is recognised that rural generalists and GPs are an integral part of the provision of care.

An example of this collaboration is the current work being undertaken with regards to the piloting of a Single Employer Model whereby GP trainees will have the option to be employed by a single employer, Queensland Health, while training in non-Queensland Health facilities such as local GP practices. This enables GP trainees to maintain entitlements for the duration of their training. The aim of this pilot is to improve the attractiveness of GP training and attract GPs to rural and remote areas.