

Question on Notice

No. 323

Asked on 30 March 2023

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Minister's Joint Statement made on 30 January with the Premier regarding 1000 frontline health workers for Queensland—

Will the Minister clarify if any of these positions are located at (a) Kingaroy Hospital, (b) Nanango Hospital, (c) Esk Hospital, (d) Kilcoy Hospital, (e) Murgon Hospital, (f) Cherbourg Hospital, (g) Wondai Hospital and (h) if so, what are these positions?

ANSWER

I thank the Member for her interest in the Palaszczuk Government's strong record on backing frontline health workers.

This commitment to frontline workers is facilitated through the Palaszczuk Government's strong record investment in health. Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has increased the Darling Downs HHS' operational funding by 64%.

As announced, more than 1000 frontline staff kickstarted their career on the frontline bolstering Queensland's strong health workforce. This included 834 medical interns who will be deployed across 20 Queensland facilities and 200 ambulance operatives to further boost and provide more accessible health services right across the state.

Hospitals across the state host medical interns for a full medical training year to ensure each intern meets term rotations as required under the Medical Board of Australia's (MBAs) intern registration standard.

These interns or junior doctors rotate through a variety of units, gaining a wealth of knowledge through hands-on experience before ultimately deciding the type of doctor they want to be and where they wish to practice.

When determining placements of interns for a program such as this many factors are considered. One of these factors is if medical staff are being allocated to other facilities through a different scheme.

In relation to where the medical interns announced will be placed, this information is set out in the statement and can be accessed via <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/97057>. The statement details the number of medical interns and their location across the State.

I am advised Kingaroy Hospital has five accredited intern posts currently allocated, three in Emergency Medicine and two in Rural Generalist Medicine, that are managed as rotation terms within a Private Hospital Intern Training Program.

The Member will be pleased to know that between 2018-19 and 2021-22, five additional doctors have been employed at the Kingaroy Hospital.