

Question on Notice

No. 1208

Asked on 11 December 2024

MR C WHITING ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the total cost of locum doctors for the past four financial years (in a table reported separately by year and by each health service)?

ANSWER

Recruiting and retaining healthcare workers is a global challenge. The Queensland Health system faces additional challenges in relation to a population that is growing, aging and dispersed across rural and remote locations.

A medical locum arrangement is a temporary staffing solution where a qualified medical professional fills a vacant position on a temporary or flexible arrangement to support the provision of health care services when there is insufficient salaried workforce.

Medical locums assist Queensland Health to address the challenges of:

- keeping roles filled during periods of leave;
- having limited talent across various specialties; and
- having limited workforce in regional and rural locations, and other hard to fill vacancies that arise.

In relation to engaging locum doctors, Queensland Health has a Preferred Supplier Panel (PSP) for Clinical Contingent Workforce. Locum recruitment agencies tender to be on this Panel and supply contracted locums under particular governance arrangements.

The requested data for locum doctor engagements through PSP agencies (over the last four years and by Hospital and Health Service) is provided at Attachment 1.

I am advised medical locums are sometimes engaged outside the PSP arrangement. Expenditure on medical locum engagements outside the PSP have not been captured centrally to date.

Financial year	Total Amount (incl GST)
2024/25†	\$80,435,311
2023/24	\$80,518,845
2022/23	\$127,822,405
2021/22	\$190,908,478
2020/21	\$73,157,652
Total	\$552,842,691

† The spend data for locums for the 2024/25 financial year is for the period 1 July 2024 – 31 October 2024

State-wide	2020/21 Financial Year	2021/22 Financial Year	2022/23 Financial Year	2023/24 Financial Year	2024/25 Financial Year†	Grand Total
Hospital and Health Service	Total Amount (incl GST)	Total Amount (incl GST)	Total Amount (incl GST)	Total Amount (incl GST)	Total Amount (incl GST)	Total Amount (incl GST)
Cairns and Hinterland	\$7,738,815	\$6,958,754	\$8,478,130	\$18,394,949	\$7,321,274	\$48,891,922
Central Queensland	\$16,021,758	\$14,377,056	\$16,240,930	\$29,966,721	\$11,108,894	\$87,715,360
Central West	\$2,518,214	\$2,243,710	\$3,828,735	\$4,229,357	\$1,184,020	\$14,004,036
Childrens Health Queensland	-	-	-	\$57,394	\$127,765	\$185,159
Darling Downs	\$7,495,794	\$6,153,886	\$13,001,442	\$22,323,937	\$8,466,434	\$57,441,493
Gold Coast	\$3,083,248	\$7,408,327	\$9,854,678	\$7,989,465	\$3,722,087	\$32,057,803
Mackay	\$2,909,286	\$2,951,132	\$6,698,748	\$11,633,221	\$5,121,972	\$29,314,359
Metro North	\$2,804,549	\$1,950,984	\$12,117,319	\$10,480,630	\$5,532,203	\$32,885,685
Metro South	\$1,397,520	\$1,557,454	\$2,354,435	\$8,890,520	\$1,900,800	\$16,100,730
North West	\$5,636,767	\$4,477,719	\$5,466,348	\$5,436,618	\$2,219,808	\$23,237,259
South West	\$4,588,476	\$3,977,536	\$4,513,164	\$5,936,965	\$2,753,370	\$21,769,511
Sunshine Coast	\$3,384,199	\$4,546,006	\$6,533,878	\$9,505,416	\$4,111,102	\$28,080,601
Torres and Cape	\$818,552	\$1,201,846	\$1,728,948	\$4,585,253	\$1,485,624	\$9,820,224
Townsville	\$5,250,569	\$4,968,138	\$8,773,851	\$20,318,648	\$4,909,898	\$44,221,103
West Moreton	\$1,572,020	\$3,697,650	\$5,836,607	\$8,654,294	\$5,008,751	\$24,769,323
Wide Bay	\$15,215,543	\$14,048,648	\$22,395,191	\$22,402,132	\$8,183,649	\$82,245,162
Grand Total	\$80,435,311	\$80,518,845	\$127,822,405	\$190,805,518	\$73,157,652	\$552,739,731

† The spend data for locums for the 2024/25 financial year is for the period 1 July 2024 – 31 October 2024.

The spend figures are a cumulative of the old standing offer arrangement (HSQ78489, Standing Offer Arrangement for Locum Medical Officers and Recruitment of Medical Officers through Recruitment Agencies, which expired in May 2023) and the new Preferred Supplier Panel (PSP111539 Clinical Contingent Workforce)