

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 212**

**Asked on 7 March 2024**

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

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the Toowoomba Hospital—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many FTE nursing vacancies are currently available, (b) what the breakdown of vacancies is per department, (c) how many FTE nurses work across the hospital and (d) over the last 18 months of rostering, how many hours were filled by overtime hours (reported as a total number and a percentage)?

### **ANSWER**

The Miles Government has a demonstrated commitment to boosting Queensland's health workforce; in the Darling Downs HHS (DDHHS) alone, we have hired 1,043 frontline health staff since 2015.

Our Government is maintaining that dedication to hiring more frontline health heroes with the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, which since its commencement in 2023 has already led to the recruitment of over 570 health workers, 37 of whom have commenced work at Darling Downs HHS.

Of these 37 new staff recruited through the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, 20 of them are nursing and midwifery staff.

In reference to Toowoomba Hospital as at 3 March 2024, there are 1,066 MOHRI occupied FTE, compared to 94.48 FTE permanent nursing vacancies.

A combination of temporary staff contracts and locum staff are utilised by Toowoomba Hospital to fill these temporary vacancies and ensure patients in the Darling Downs continue to receive high quality healthcare.

It is important to note that many of these vacancies are for roles tied to new health projects delivered by the Miles Labor Government.

For example, 11.5 FTE positions are currently being recruited for the new Bunya Centre Day Surgery – which will provide capacity for 4,000 additional surgeries each year for Darling Downs residents – which has just opened to patients and will increase its services over the coming months.

The breakdown of these vacancies is as follows:

- Medical = 10.37 FTE;
- Surgical and Cancer = 20.55 FTE; (Note: Recruitment ongoing. 11.5 FTE vacancies currently part of active recruitment cycle for the New Bunya Centre

Day Surgery, Baillie Henderson Hospital Campus. The proposed opening is forecast to be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2024)

- Patient Flow = 56.31 FTE; (Note: 24.31 FTE for Emergency Department expansion with ongoing recruitment occurring; and 27.43 FTE for nursing permanent pool for emergent leave.)
- Women's and Childrens = 7.25 FTE.

The Toowoomba Hospital (excluding Mental Health) had 55,754 overtime hours from 1 July 2022 – 31 December 2023. This represents 1.82% of total standard nursing hours.