

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 280**

**Asked on 1 April 2025**

**MR S KNUTH** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the Minister recently announcing the success of the Regional Medical Pathway program with 131 students enrolled in the program as undergraduates, who will continue to train in Central Queensland and Wide Bay under the University of Queensland postgraduate Doctor of Medicine program—

Will the Minister confirm if this program will be extended to North Queensland hospitals who are also experiencing a shortage of locally trained doctors?

### **ANSWER**

The Central Queensland and Wide Bay Regional Medical Pathway (RMP) is a joint initiative specifically of the Central Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), CQUniversity and the University of Queensland. There are no current plans to expand the RMP elsewhere.

To bolster Queensland's primary health care services, the Queensland Government has committed over \$24 million to incentivise trainees to undertake general practice training in Queensland.

The Queensland Government has also committed over \$6.8 million towards the Single Employer Model (SEM) pilot to improve the distribution of general practitioners in rural and remote Queensland, including North Queensland.

Townsville HHS has a participating SEM pilot site in Ayr with 1.0 FTE registrar in place.

North West HHS has two participating SEM pilot sites with 1.0 FTE registrar – recruitment is currently being undertaken for 0.5 FTE in Cloncurry and 0.5 FTE in Mount Isa for an August start.

These are important initiatives to attract the medical workforce to North Queensland.

They are in addition to loadings and allowances available to staff who chose to work in regional and rural areas including North Queensland such as the regional and rural attraction allowance.