

Question on Notice

No. 80

Asked on 19 February 2025

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the occupational violence experienced by staff and security officers at the Townsville University Hospital, and the debate around the provision of handcuffs to security staff— Will the Minister advise (a) what is being done to address the rising level of violent offences committed against staff and (b) will handcuffs and the associated training be provided to security officers in the near future?

ANSWER

- a) Townsville Hospital and Health Service has various workforce models to address or mitigate any violence in the workplace and these are reviewed around risk and reviewing occupational violence incidents to ensure any opportunities for improvement or further reduction of risk is enacted. I am advised that mechanisms in place include health security staff, ED ambassadors, and duress points across Townsville HHS campuses.
- b) Townsville HHS was in the process of undertaking consultation for the planned operational use of mechanical wrist restraints; however, this consultation was suspended on 27 February 2025 when the Together Queensland Industrial Union of Employees lodged a Form 10 Notice of industrial dispute in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. In accordance with industrial requirements, the consultation process will be stayed until the industrial dispute is resolved in the commission.

The Townsville HHS has advised as with any significant change in operational processes, comprehensive training will be provided prior to implementation.