

## Question on Notice

No. 497

Asked on 12 May 2026

**HON M BAILEY** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

### QUESTION

With reference to the Queensland Health Workforce Gap Analysis report—

Will the Minister advise to the nearest reportable date (a) the attrition rate for nursing positions, reported separately by HHS and (b) the number of vacant nursing FTE positions, reported separately by HHS?

### ANSWER

Nurses and midwives are the backbone of frontline hospital care, working together to provide continuity and quality across every stage of the patient journey. Queensland is investing in nurses and midwives like never before, with an 11% pay rise, better conditions, and new incentives for remote areas.

To help build a strong pipeline of skilled professionals, the Crisafulli Government has created 2,000 free nursing diploma places in 2026 and recruited record numbers of graduate nurses and midwives in our Hospital and Health Service.

The Member may be pleased to learn that there has been a reduction in the number of vacant nursing FTE positions compared to recent years. I am advised that as at June 2024, the number of vacant nursing positions was 833.91. I am advised this has reduced by more than 70 FTE to date.

According to the Member for Waterford's answer to Question on Notice 767 of 2024, nursing and midwifery stream attrition in 2022-23 was 6.17%.

(a) For the current financial year to date, as at pay period ending 26 April 2026, the attrition rate for nursing positions was 4.69%.

Of this:

- Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.89 per cent.
- Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.29 per cent.
- Central West Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 6.02 per cent.
- Children's Health Queensland had an attrition rate of 4.36 per cent.
- Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 5.81 per cent.
- Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.66 per cent.

- Mackay Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.69 per cent.
- Metro North Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 3.97 per cent.
- Metro South Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.39 per cent.
- North West Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 11.16 per cent.
- South West Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 6.14 per cent.
- Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.62 per cent.
- Torres and Cape York Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 11.71 per cent.
- Townsville Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 5.78 per cent.
- West Moreton Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.15 per cent.
- Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service had an attrition rate of 4.11 per cent.

(b) As at pay period ending 26 April 2026, the number of vacant nursing positions was 763.37 FTE.

Of these:

- Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service had 126.41 FTE vacant positions.
- Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service had 11.06 FTE vacant positions.
- Central West Hospital and Health Service had 47.81 FTE vacant positions.
- Children's Health Queensland had no reported vacancies.
- Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service had no reported vacancies.
- Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service had no reported vacancies.
- Mackay Hospital and Health Service had 44.49 FTE vacant positions.
- Metro North Hospital and Health Service had no reported vacancies.
- Metro South Hospital and Health Service had 36.29 FTE vacant positions.
- North West Hospital and Health Service had 74.18 FTE vacant positions.
- South West Hospital and Health Service had 64.28 FTE vacant positions.
- Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service had no reported vacancies.
- Torres and Cape York Hospital and Health Service had 78.64 FTE vacant positions.
- Townsville Hospital and Health Service had 280.21 FTE vacant positions.
- West Moreton Hospital and Health Service had no reported vacancies.
- Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service had no reported vacancies.