

Question on Notice

No. 525

Asked on 13 May 2026

MS M MCMAHON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to student placements with Queensland Health—

Will the Minister advise, reported separately by HHS, the number of (a) nursing students and (b) medical students currently on placements?

ANSWER

I am advised that nursing student placements start and end at varying times and is likely to change on a day-to-day basis. This is due to the complexity and variability of nursing placement arrangements. Nursing placements encompass multiple cohorts, including employed students in nursing, Diploma of Nursing students, and Bachelor of Nursing students. These cohorts undertake placements across all Hospital and Health Services, are sourced from multiple education providers, and participate in placements that commence and conclude at varying times throughout the year.

I am advised that clinical placements are a core component of medical school curriculum enabling students to practically apply clinical and scientific knowledge and skills in the clinical environment within a multidisciplinary team. Typically, the bulk of clinical placement hours occur in the penultimate and final year of medical school (third/fourth year for postgraduate programs and fifth/sixth year for undergraduate programs). Universities partner with the public health sector and other providers (including primary care and community settings) to facilitate diverse clinical placement opportunities for medical students to satisfy their educational requirements.

I am advised that education providers are responsible for arranging and administering clinical placements on behalf of students, ensuring their preparation for the clinical learning environment, and liaison and negotiation with HHSs.

Noting the lack of specificity in the Member's question, that the requested data regularly fluctuates, and that the Department of Health does not centrally hold a single, point-in-time figure of the number of nursing or medical students currently on placement by Hospital and Health Service (HHS), I have determined that it would be an unreaable diversion of resources to provide the requested data.