

HEALTH, AGENCY NURSES, NUMBER EMPLOYED

2512. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Health

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 1820 of August 2003 and ask -

- (a) for each of the financial years 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, how many 'agency' nurses were employed by the Health Department;
- (b) will the Minister release the evaluation that was conducted of areas and times of peak need for agency nurses; and
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (a) Agency nurses engaged by Health Services are as follows:

Actual 2000/2001	245 FTEs
Actual 2001/2002	362 FTEs
Actual 2002/2003	518 FTEs (includes 127 FTEs for WA Country Health Service)

WA Country Health Service reporting of Agency nurse statistics was not complete for 2000/2001 and 2001/2002; accordingly no data was included for these years.

- (b) A detailed report was released by the Auditor General's Office into the nursing shortage and use of agency nurses in August 2002. This report was used as a part of the evaluation of agency nursing staff. This report is available online at www.audit.wa.gov.au.
- (c) Not applicable.