

NURSES, NUMBER AND STRESS LEAVE

739. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many nurses were employed in the public sector in each of the following years -
- (a) 1998;
 - (b) 1999;
 - (c) 2000;
 - (d) 2001; and
 - (e) 2002?
- (2) How many of the nurses in (1) took stress leave in each of the following years -
- (a) 1998;
 - (b) 1999;
 - (c) 2000;
 - (d) 2001; and
 - (e) 2002?
- (3) What was the total number of working days missed by nurses on stress leave in each of the following years -
- (a) 1998;
 - (b) 1999;
 - (c) 2000;
 - (d) 2001; and
 - (e) 2002?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

For the purpose of this response the following nurse numbers (which includes both register and enrolled nurses) have been collected from a 'head count' as opposed to full time equivalent nursing positions. It is important to note that a nurse may be employed at two or more different health sites but will appear in these figures as one nurse.

1. The number of nurses employed in the public sector in each of the following years, as at 1 January, is as follows :
- (a) 10057
 - (b) 10224
 - (c) 10461
 - (d) 10720
 - (e) 11399
2. RiskCover reports the current number of claims from nurses in (1) who were absent from work and receiving stress recognised workers compensation in each of the identified years was:
- (a) 38
 - (b) 22
 - (c) 33
 - (d) 19
 - (e) 24
3. RiskCover reports the total number of working days lost by nurses who were absent from work and receiving stress recognised workers compensation in each of the identified years was:
- (a) 2541.8
 - (b) 1647.2
 - (c) 2598.0
 - (d) 567.9
 - (e) 164.5

Please Note:

The information provided in response to questions 2 and 3 has been obtained directly from RiskCover.

When considering the responses to questions 2 and 3 it should be noted that the finalisation of workers compensation claims does take considerable time and therefore may effect the reported figures in the most recent years.

