

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM - STATISTICS ON DOCTORS

2833. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Health

- (1) How many doctors (total individual headcount) were there in the Western Australian public health system at 30 September 2007?
- (2) What number of doctors' positions are required, but remain unfilled, in the Western Australian public health system at 30 September 2007?
- (3) How many doctors have resigned, retired or were terminated from the Western Australian public health system in 2007 to date?
- (4) How many doctors were recruited into the Western Australian public health system in 2007 to date, and what percentage has been filled by new graduates or overseas-trained practitioners?
- (5) What is the ratio of doctors to population in Western Australian public hospitals at 30 September 2007 and how does this compare to other Australian states and territories?
- (6) How many accrued annual leave hours for doctors employed in the Western Australian public health system exist at 30 September 2007?
- (7) How many accrued long service leave hours for doctors employed in the Western Australian public health system exist at 30 September 2007?
- (8) How many accrued sick leave hours for doctors employed in the Western Australian public health system exist at 30 September 2007?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1) 3,223 headcount.
- (2) 87.2 FTE.
- (3) 131 head count from 1 January to 23 October 2007 (permanent staff only).
Note: between January 2007 and September 2007, total medical head count has held fairly steady around a mean of 3,200 per month.
- (4) 1,470 head count doctors were recruited from 1 January to 23 October 2007 (permanent and non-permanent staff).
Note: WA Government health employees do not have a unique identification and may be counted more than once if recruited across a number of hospital sites.
152 head count permanent and non-permanent medical graduates have been recruited.
Note: The current HR system does not support the additional data requested concerning the number of overseas trained doctors recruited.
- (5) WA Health does not use ratios to prescribe the number of medical practitioners required to deliver services. Medical practitioner numbers are influenced by the particular specialisation, acuity and complexity of the patient mix, the levels of supervision and support required for medical practitioners in training.
- (6)-(8) Leave balances are an intrinsic part of workforce. At 30 September, accrued hours were:
342,704 hours annual leave
532,913 hours long service leave
57,002 hours sick leave
(permanent and non permanent)