

COLLIE HOSPITAL — REGISTERED NURSES

5225. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Health:

I refer to Collie Hospital's staffing arrangements in respect of graduate registered nurses and registered nurses, and I ask:

- (a) how many graduate registered nurses are currently employed at the hospital;
- (b) how many graduate registered nurses were employed at the hospital as at 1 August 2015;
- (c) how many registered nurses are currently employed at the hospital;
- (d) how many registered nurses were employed at the hospital as at 1 August 2015;
- (e) are graduate nurses who have completed the graduate nurse program at Collie Hospital offered contracts to continue their employment at the hospital or an equivalent position within the WA public health system;
- (f) how many graduate registered nurses has Collie Hospital employed over the last two years and, of these, how many were offered contracts to continue their employment at the hospital as registered nurses;
- (g) how many times over the last six months has the hospital been unable to fill all rostered nursing positions because of a lack of nursing staff and existing employees' inability or unwillingness to take extra shifts;
- (h) how many hours on average are worked each month at the hospital by registered nurses employed on casual or contract bases and sourced through NurseWest, private agencies, or other avenues; and
- (i) how many times in the last 12 months has a patient or patients been turned away or referred to another hospital due to a lack of beds, resulting from an inability to fill all required registered nurse positions?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

Answer as at 15 March 2016:

- (a) Two headcount (HC).
- (b) Two HC as at 1 August 2015.
- (c) 37 HC.
- (d) 37 HC as at 1 August 2015.
- (e) Graduate nurses are not automatically offered contracts.
- (f) Six HC graduate registered nurses have been employed under the graduate program since 15 March 2014. Of these graduate registered nurses, two (2) have been offered contracts via merit based selection to continue employment at Collie Hospital.
- (g) Nursing rosters are developed six weeks in advance. All shifts are rostered using available staff and if required, agency staff. Unplanned leave at short notice can be difficult to fill and depending on activity and acuity of patients on site, some of these shifts may not be covered, however staffing is maintained at levels to ensure safe, quality patient care.
- (h) 280 hours per month.
- (i) Nil.