

HEALTH — DELOITTE AUDIT

164. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Why can the minister not demonstrate proper transparency on this matter and release that report this week?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

The report is subject to the internal rollout of ratios, which we are still working through. A report will be provided, but we need the report to work through the implementation of ratios and how that is done. When it comes to workforce, we have increased the health workforce by 30 per cent since we have been in government—30 per cent! We have put in 4 000 FTE nurses and 1 700 doctors. We have significantly increased our FTE.

Several members interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: What are you saying?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: There is this muttering.

When the Liberal–National coalition was in government for over eight and a half years, it increased the entire workforce by less than 1 000 FTE. Over eight and a half years, it was less than 1 000 FTE.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: We have significantly increased our FTE in the health system and offered further opportunities and training opportunities, particularly for nursing staff. There is no question that there are often points of pressure in every health system around the world. Our system has a good staffing profile for medical, nursing and allied health, and different models of care assist with that staffing profile. Of course, there are times of pressure and winter surges when people are sick and unwell and so on and so forth, as happens in every system and every public service that is in demand, but we have been absolutely committed to recruiting into our health system, and the results are clear, because Health's FTE has gone up by 30 per cent.