

Estimates Committee 2010
Questions Taken On Notice

(11/06/2010 to 18/06/2010)

Date: 17/06/2010

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Alice Spring Hospital - Bogus doctor

From: Mr Matt Conlan to Hon Kon Vatskalis
Health

7-16

Question:

Also, are you able to provide information whether or not that number of patients, that number, whatever it is, those 400 people, have been contacted by the department, at least the Alice Springs Hospital and told that they were?

Answer:

Answered On: 12/08/2010

QUESTION ON NOTICE 7.16

Also, are you able to provide information whether or not that number of patients, that number, whatever it is, those 400 people, have been contacted by the department, at least the Alice Springs Hospital and told that they were?

ANSWER

Balajii Varathajou commenced duties as an Intern and worked between May and October 2009 in a Medical Unit and a Surgical Unit under constant supervision.

There was one case reported of poor technique at putting in a cannula in his surgical rotation. This complaint was dealt with at the time with the patient.

During his rotation in the Emergency Department (ED) he was under supervision at all times. The ED Director conducted an independent review of all 420 patients he had seen in ED. There was no evidence of any adverse outcome.

Alice Springs Hospital published a statement in the Centralian Advocate and broadcast on the ABC inviting patients with concern about treatment that they might have had from Mr Varathajou to contact the hospital.

Four patients contacted the hospital. On reviewing their records, none of these patients had received treatment from this alleged intern.

One Darwin based person raised a complaint with the NT News. His case had been reviewed and there was no evidence of poor treatment on independent review.

These findings have also been concluded by an internal independent audit.