

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
WRITTEN QUESTION

Dr Lim to Minister for Health

Nurse Recruitment and Administrative Staffing

1. **How many nurses have been recruited by the NT Government since the Northern Territory General Election of 2001, by each Territory hospital and by financial year? Of these nurses please advise, what number of these nursing positions are now vacant and for each hospital.**

The table below shows staff commencement figures for nurses in NT hospitals for each financial year since 2001:

**Distinct DHCS Nursing Classification Stream Staff Commencements -
2001/02 to 30/04/2006**

Hospital	2001-02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Alice Springs Hospital	287	268	305	281	265
Gove District Hospital	52	51	37	42	21
Katherine Hospital	61	56	73	66	46
Royal Darwin Hospital	339	362	351	360	339
Tennant Creek Hospital	35	26	26	31	27
TOTAL	774	763	792	780	698

The following numbers of nursing positions are currently vacant:

Hospital	No. of nursing positions vacant as at Pay 23 2006
Royal Darwin Hospital	35
Alice Springs Hospital	13
Gove District Hospital	0
Katherine Hospital	9
Tennant Creek Hospital	5
Total	62

2. **What proportion of nurses of total equivalent full-time Northern Territory nursing positions are employed through employment agencies? Of these positions please list the number of nursing positions now vacant, for each Territory hospital.**

The following table lists, by hospital, the number of agency-paid nurses occupying nursing positions as a proportion of established positions in early June, 2006. There are no designated agency-paid positions.

Hospital	Number of agency-paid nursing positions as a proportion of established nursing positions
Royal Darwin Hospital	1.5%
Alice Springs Hospital	2.2%
Gove District Hospital	0%
Katherine Hospital	0%
Tennant Creek Hospital	0%
Total	1.5%

3. **How many administration staff within Territory Health hold a nursing qualification?**

The number of administration staff within the Department of Health and Community Services who hold a nursing qualification is not known. This information is not routinely collected.

4. **Please list the number of nurses in administrative positions by hospital and by regional health administration offices and at central office.**

The number of identified nursing administration positions by hospital is detailed below. Administration positions include Nursing Director, Executive Director of Nursing, Quality Coordinator and Infection Control Nurse/Officer.

Hospital	No. of nursing administrative positions – June 2006
Royal Darwin Hospital	8
Alice Springs Hospital	5
Gove District Hospital	2
Katherine Hospital	3
Tennant Creek Hospital	1
Total	19

Regional health administration offices are no longer part of the Department of Health and Community Services structure therefore data is not available for nursing staff in administrative positions in regional health administration offices. Data is not routinely collected on the number of nurses in administrative positions at central office.

5. **What were the number of Health Administration staff, broken down by levels, employed at 31st December 2001?**

The number of Health Administration staff, by level, employed at 31st December 2001 is shown in the following table:

Classification Code	Count
AO1	59
AO2	349
AO3	151
AO4	127
AO5	71
AO6	140
AO7	79
AO8	37
*TAT01	4
TOTAL	1017

* TAT01 - Admin trainee

6. **What were the number of Health Administration staff, broken down by levels, employed at 31st December 2005?**

The number of Health Administration staff, by level, employed at 31st December 2005 is shown in the following table:

Classification Code	Count
AO1	30
AO2	376
AO3	207
AO4	169
AO5	98
AO6	170
AO7	109
AO8	51
TOTAL	1210

The 'Administrative officer stream' staff include Aboriginal Mental Health Workers, Aboriginal Community Welfare Workers, Disability Support Workers and Sexual Health Workers; administrative positions directly located with, and in support of, service provision, such as Ward clerks, Medical Records clerks, Medicare Administration clerks, Service development staff working with non-government service providers in community health and community service programs; and project staff, often employed for specific projects.