

NURSE RECRUITMENT SERVICE — UNITED KINGDOM

3005. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I refer to WA Health's nursing recruitment office in the United Kingdom (UK), and ask —

- (1) How many Registered Nurses have been recruited each year from the UK since the opening of this office?
- (2) On average, how long does it take from initial expression of interest by a UK nurse for them to commence work in Australia?
- (3) Does the Government track how long UK nurses sponsored to immigrate by the Western Australian Government, remain in the Western Australian public health system?
- (4) If yes to (3), please provide this information
- (5) If no to (3), why not?
- (6) What was the cost of running this recruitment service in 2009-10?
- (7) What are the estimated costs of running this recruitment service in 2010-11 and 2011-12?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) WA Health supports an employer sponsored migration program for nursing from within the WA Government Office (WAGO) in London. This program is not responsible for recruiting Registered Nurses to WA Health but sources possible candidates for review. Each Area Health Service (AHS) select candidates for recruitment from this program.

The specific numbers recruited by AHS from the UK are not differentiated. Nearly 2000 UK and Irish nurses have been sourced through this program since WA Health has had a permanent, ongoing presence in the UK since 2008.
- (2) The time frame is highly variable depending on candidate and employer need and visa type, ranging from 3 months to 2 years. On average nurses from the UK and Ireland are taking 6 months to migrate on employer sponsored visas into WA Health.
- (3) UK nurses may obtain employment in the WA public health system following sponsorship under the state sponsored migration program administered by the Department of Training and Workforce Development. WA Health does not track how long these nurses remain in the public health system.

WA Health provides an employer sponsored migration program which does not track how long sponsored UK nurses remain employed in the Western Australian public health system.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) WA Health maintains individual employment records of each employer sponsored employee including start and finish date, type of visa, citizenship, and work location(s). Extensive work would be necessary to establish a specific tracking process across the WA public health system, regarding the length of employment of nurses from the UK, and this has not been regarded as a priority to date.
- (6) \$422,237.
- (7) \$610,000 for 2010-11, and \$630,000 for 2011-12.