

MI131195

MO: H/05/00966

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your petition received 24 August 2005, regarding training for Australian doctors. Queensland Health has been working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives to address workforce shortages. I am pleased to advise that the following initiatives have been introduced or are in the implementation phase including:

- *An increase in undergraduate medical student placements* - the Queensland Government recently announced funding for an additional 235 medical student places at Griffith University aimed at recruiting doctors to rural and remote areas, indigenous health services and community run health services. The increase in student places will be over the next five years, with the first 35 places commencing at Griffith's Gold Coast campus in January 2006. This initiative is in addition to the 246 additional medical places that were funded by the Australian Government from the beginning of 2004.
- *An increase in intern positions* - the Queensland Government announced in April 2005, that an additional 60 new intern positions would be funded from the beginning of 2006 to employ additional graduating medical students.
- *An increase in Medical Schools within Queensland Universities* - the establishment of new medical schools at James Cook University, Townsville; Griffith University, Gold Coast; and Bond University, Gold Coast will more than double the number of graduating medical students from Queensland universities by 2010, with approximately 600 medical students available for employment within Queensland Health facilities by 2011.
- *The establishment of a Recruitment Unit* – the Unit will focus on both immediate and long term medical workforce issues. It will manage medical staffing recruitment, assessment, placement, training and support on a state-wide basis to ensure the delivery of a skilled medical workforce to where it is needed.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Ms Elizabeth Garrigan, Acting Director, Preparation and Development Unit, Workforce Reform Branch will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone number 07 3234 0825.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP