



11 November 2013

Queensland Health responds to documents obtained under RTI

Periods 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2012 and 1 July 2012 – 30 May 2013

Please attribute the following to Ian Maynard, Director-General, Queensland Health:

While substantiated claims relating to misappropriation and theft (which includes claiming for duties not performed) relate to less than 0.3 per cent of Queensland Health's workforce, there is still room for improvement.

This also means however that more than 99.7 per cent Queensland Health full time equivalent staff do the right thing and perform their duties exceptionally every day.

The most recent documents uploaded to the Queensland Health Right to Information request (RTI) website at www.health.qld.gov.au/foi/pub_scheme.asp#log relate to substantiated claims of theft and fraud against Department of Health staff and employees from the 17 Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) in Queensland.

The substantiated claims relate to misuse of drugs, theft of property, falsely obtaining financial benefit, claiming for duties not performed, or theft of cash and possessions.

The RTI documents show from 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2012, six allegations were substantiated claims against department staff with a further 293 substantiated allegations against employees of 17 HHSs. All of these allegations have been investigated and closed.

The documents also show from 1 July 2012 – 30 May 2013 there were two substantiated allegations of theft and/or misappropriation made against department employees.

Both cases have been closed and the persons concerned are no longer employed by the department.

It's important to note that a substantiated allegation does not automatically result in a staff member having their employment with the department or a HHS terminated. While I have a zero tolerance approach to fraud, disciplinary action must be proportionate to any proven misconduct.

Under health reform that came into effect on July 1 last year, HHSs are required to investigate and respond appropriately to instances such as these, with the assistance of the Department when required.

In the last year more than 3,500 Department of Health staff attended fraud awareness training.

Awareness campaigns have also been implemented to increase staff awareness of fraud, misconduct and corruption, and the responsibility to report it.

ENDS

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