

Right to Information Application (RTI 2984/22)

Scope of application

For the period 01/10/2021 to 19/01/2022, and broken down by hospital:

1. Total number of Queensland Health employees who have applied for an exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.
2. Total number of Queensland Health employees who have been granted an exemption, broken down by:
 - a. The reasons the exemption has been granted (eg specific medical reasons, if religious, under what grounds and if other exceptional circumstances, under which grounds)
 - b. The occupation stream the employee works (eg clinical, administrative, operational) and if possible, further broken down (eg doctor, nurse, wardsperson, security officer)
 - c. Number of employees granted an exemption who have now returned to their roles.

Date range

Requested: 01 October 2021 to 19 January 2022

Provided: 01 October 2021 to 04 February 2022

Source

Information regarding items 1-2 as it pertains to exemption status, reasons, and current employee status collected from Queensland Hospital and Health Services.

These figures are supplied as at 04 February 2022 and represent data recorded at that time. Employee vaccination and exemption data changes daily as applications are assessed and as more information becomes available which provides improved accuracy of records.

Information regarding occupational stream was collected from HR Payroll SAP (DSS).

Response

1. Total number of Queensland Health employees who have applied for an exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Cairns and Hinterland HHS	132
Central Queensland HHS	96
Central West HHS	5
Children's Health Queensland HHS	43
Darling Downs HHS	115
Department of Health	89
Gold Coast HHS	215
Mackay HHS	65
Metro North HHS	287
Metro South HHS	250
North West HHS	14
Queensland Ambulance Service	178
South West HHS	6
Sunshine Coast HHS	275
Torres and Cape HHS	12
Townsville HHS	65
West Moreton HHS	78
Wide Bay HHS	95
TOTAL¹	2013

Table 1: Total number of Queensland Health employees who have applied for an exemption from Health Employment Directive 12/21, by HHS.

Note: ¹ Total may not match the sum of HHS/DoH/QAS numbers due to staff working across multiple locations. Does not include exemption requests that have been withdrawn.

2. Total number of Queensland Health employees who have been granted an exemption, broken down by:
- a. The reasons the exemption has been granted (e.g. specific medical reasons, if religious, under what grounds and if other exceptional circumstances, under which grounds)

	Exemption reason		
	Medical	Religious	Other ²
Cairns and Hinterland HHS		1	3
Central Queensland HHS			17
Central West HHS			
Children's Health Queensland HHS	2		4
Darling Downs HHS	6		16
Department of Health	12		11
Gold Coast HHS	16		34
Mackay HHS		2	24
Metro North HHS	2	2	59
Metro South HHS	9		2
North West HHS			7
Queensland Ambulance Service	2		15
South West HHS			3
Sunshine Coast HHS			2
Torres and Cape HHS	1		1
Townsville HHS			12
West Moreton HHS	3		11
Wide Bay HHS		1	16
TOTAL¹	52	6	237

Table 2: Number of applications for exemption from HED 12/21 granted, by HHS and by exemption reason.

Notes: Of these 295 exemptions, 294 were approved as time-limited exemptions and 1 was approved as an ongoing exemption.

¹ Total may not match the sum of HHS/DoH/QAS numbers due to staff working across multiple locations.

² "Other" includes reasons such as Pregnancy and AstraZeneca time frames.

- b. The occupation stream the employee works (e.g. clinical, administrative, operational) and if possible, further broken down (e.g. doctor, nurse, wardsperson, security officer)

	Occupational stream						Queensland Ambulance Service	Trade and Artisans
	Managerial and Clerical	Medical incl VMOs	Nursing	Operational	Professional and Technical			
Cairns and Hinterland HHS	2		2					
Central Queensland HHS	4		10	1	2			
Central West HHS								
Children's Health Queensland HHS	2	1	2		1			
Darling Downs HHS	4	1	14		3			
Department of Health	15			2	5		1	
Gold Coast HHS	13		29	1	7			
Mackay HHS	5	1	11	2	7			
Metro North HHS	11	1	37	4	10			
Metro South HHS	4	1	2	1	3			
North West HHS	5		1		1			
Queensland Ambulance Service			1	1		15		
South West HHS	1		2					
Sunshine Coast HHS			2					
Torres and Cape HHS	1		1					
Townsville HHS	2	2	7	1				
West Moreton HHS	2	1	7	1	3			
Wide Bay HHS	2		8	1	6			
TOTAL¹	73	8	136	15	47	15	1	

Table 3: Number of applications for exemption from HED 12/21 granted, by HHS and by occupational stream.

Note: ¹ Total may not match the sum of HHS/DoH/QAS numbers due to staff working across multiple locations.

c. Number of employees granted an exemption who have now returned to their roles.

	Number
Cairns and Hinterland HHS	1
Central Queensland HHS	2
Central West HHS	
Children's Health Queensland HHS	
Darling Downs HHS	4
Department of Health	15
Gold Coast HHS	12
Mackay HHS	3
Metro North HHS	13
Metro South HHS	7
North West HHS	
Queensland Ambulance Service	
South West HHS	3
Sunshine Coast HHS	2
Torres and Cape HHS	
Townsville HHS	
West Moreton HHS	4
Wide Bay HHS	5
TOTAL¹	71

Table 4: Number of applications for exemption from HED 12/21 granted, now working in their roles.

Note: ¹ Total may not match the sum of HHS/DoH/QAS numbers due to staff working across multiple locations.

Employees in the workplace awaiting a second dose or working from an alternative location, if returning to a workplace, have had a risk assessment undertaken to ensure workplace safety.