



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Miss Nuttall

Addressed to: Ms Hughes

In relation to: Local Hospital Network and Cost Modelling - Nursing

Hearing: 11 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 16

Transcript provided: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 21 November 2025

Ms Stephen-Smith: Agency nursing costs.

Ms Hughes: The biggest single increase at the beginning of 24-25, and the first six months, was the agency nursing costs.

MS BARRY: Thank you.

MISS NUTTALL: And have you done the modelling of that alternative cost if those human resources were employed directed by CHS?

Ms Hughes: Yes, we have for nursing. And we are working through that a little bit from medical staffing. But we are more focused on what is the correct medical staffing plan to deliver our volumes, rather than what types of staff from there.

MISS NUTTALL: Thank you. And do you mind me asking what the modelling was for nursing when you did it?

Ms Hughes: We can share that with you, in terms of the NIMS templates.

Ms Zagari: But we will take that question on notice and provide that detail.

Ms Hughes: We will take that on notice because that is the detail—

MISS NUTTALL: Thank you.

Ms Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Nursing budgets are developed based on individual clinical wards, aligned with operational rosters, nurse to patient ratios and bed numbers. This feeds into the overall activity targets set by the Service Funding Agreement. The budget also accounts for backfill requirements due to personal and annual leave, and includes provisions for:

- Salaries and wages
- On-costs (e.g. allowances and penalties)
- Professional development

All areas can fully recruit to the nursing full time equivalent numbers in the budget. Since the period identified, CHS has employed more than 400 additional nurses and is saving nearly \$50 million per annum because agency nurses are on average twice as expensive as employed nurses.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

21/11/25

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith