

5 March 2024

The Hon Shannon Fentiman MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services  
Minister for Women

Mr Michael Walsh  
Director-General  
Queensland Health

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: Qld Health medical staff data for Central Queensland HHS**

Dear Minister and Director-General

AMA Queensland members have advised that Queensland Health data shows concerning trends in medical staff numbers at Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CQHHS). This publicly available data shows medical staff numbers have declined in CQHHS from 376 in 2020-21 to 333 as at December 2023. Relevant figures are set out in the below table.

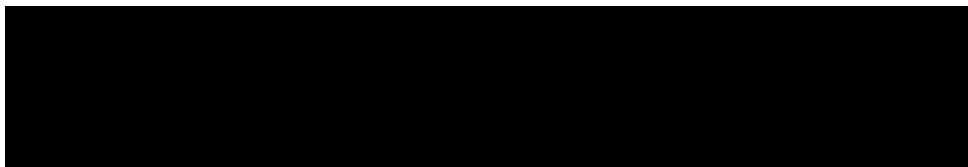
**Total Doctors**

HHS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	@ Dec 2023	Growth 2019-20 to Dec 2023
Central Queensland	343	376	357	333	-2.9%

This data accords with the experience of doctors on the ground, with many reporting reduced health service capabilities, inequities for regional patients accessing elective surgery, excessive work hours, fatigue and burnout. Clinicians from other HHSs have also advised they are worried for the welfare of their CQHHS colleagues and patients and advocated for urgent, targeted government intervention.

We understand your commitment to increasing the medical workforce, particularly in our regional and rural communities and seek your confirmation of the above figures. We would also welcome an opportunity to discuss this issue with you further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Maria Boulton  
**President**  
**AMA Queensland**

Dr Brett Dale  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AMA Queensland**

Copied to: Assoc Prof Catherine McDougall, Chief Medical Officer: 