



PARLIAMENT SITTING MARCH – APRIL 2023
27 MARCH 2023 – WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2023

Thursday, 6 April 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION

78/2023 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how many doctors, nurses, oral health and allied health care professionals has the Government recruited.

WRITTEN RESPONSE

As I have alluded to in my maiden speech the Ministry of Health & Medical Services needs well supported, appropriately remunerated and strong health care professionals.

Nurses

While more than 800 nurses resigned last year, a total of 206 nurses were recruited in November 2022 (this financial year 2022 – 2023).

In addition, there is open advertisement for Registered Nurses positions whereby a registered nurse can apply for a post at any time.

Under this process, we have managed to recruit 18 Registered Nurses. Another 162 Registered Nurses are expected to be recruited in May this year.

Doctors

A total of 150 medical interns were recruited in January of this year and today 80 Medical Officers (MOs) have been recruited with the remaining to be recruited as soon as they complete their internship.

Oral Health

There are total of 205 oral health practitioners with another 25 to be recruited before the end of the 2022/23 financial year which will bring the total to 230.

There is a large number of vacancies in Dental Hygienist positions is due to the unavailability of graduates and the Fiji National University is currently reviewing their program.

Allied Health

Allied Health professionals are involved with the delivery of health or related services pertaining to the identification,

evaluation and prevention of diseases and disorders; dietary and nutrition services; rehabilitation and health systems management, among others.

We have a total of 717 established allied health workers and we have recruited 558 more with 87 more posts yet to be filled during this financial year.

Allied health professionals, to name a few, Biomedical Engineers, Dietician, Physiotherapist, Pharmacist, Medical Imaging Technologist, Laboratory Assistants and Environmental Health Officers.

ENDS.