

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2353

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 24)

Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

(a) What has been the total number of specialist trained nurses over the past 10 years and (b) where have they been allocated during the specified period?

NW2775E

REPLY:

(a) According to the information as received from the South African Nursing Council (SANC) the total number of specialist nurses who completed their studies and registered as nursing specialists over the past 10 years period, is **52 887**, as per table below:

Nurse category	Output per year										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
Specialist Nurses	5185	6321	4722	6211	6010	5494	4941	5530	3508	4965	52 887

*Statistics obtained from South African Nursing Council

(b) According to the records as drawn from the Persal System on 31 May 2022, the table below indicate the number of nursing specialists appointed in the public service, in each province, over the reporting 10 years period (per financial year):

Appointments from 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022											
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total	
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	98	20	209	265	16	6	15	4	45	678	
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	6	3	15	51	4	1	4		5	89	
Grand Total	104	23	224	316	20	7	19	4	50	767	
Appointments from 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021											
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total	
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	33	5	174	171	17	29	30	10	64	533	
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING			23	36	7	11	10	5	3	95	
Grand Total	33	5	197	207	24	40	40	15	67	628	
Appointments from 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020											
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total	
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	59	6	131	105	21	21	25	6	65	439	
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	5	1	18	11	8	3	4		4	54	
Grand Total	64	7	149	116	29	24	29	6	69	493	
Appointments from 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019											
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total	
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	53	2	77	83	11	3	3		2	234	
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	10	2	11	16	2	2	1			44	
Grand Total	63	4	88	99	13	5	4		2	278	
Appointments from 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018											
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total	
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	96	15	112	68	1	3	11	14	57	377	
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	9	2	33	14			1	5	6	70	
Grand Total	105	17	145	82	1	3	12	19	63	447	

Appointments from 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017										
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	26	14	216	77	3	15	5	7	51	414
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	8		54	10	1	2		4	5	84
Grand Total	34	14	270	87	4	17	5	11	56	498

Appointments from 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016										
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	KwaZulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	39	9	187	306	60	26		26	69	722
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	13	2	60	46	20	9	1	3	8	162
Grand Total	52	11	247	352	80	35	1	29	77	884

Appointments from 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015										
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	Kwazulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	39	1	90	189	38	17	7	9	40	430
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	15		31	35	10	9	2	2	5	109
Grand Total	54	1	121	224	48	26	9	11	45	539

Appointments from 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014										
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	Kwazulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING	18	1	95	20	9	18	22	2	51	236
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	4		40	1	6	16	6	1	14	88
Grand Total	22	1	135	21	15	34	28	3	65	324

Appointments from 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013										
Row Labels	Eastern Cape	Free State	Gauteng	Kwazulu Natal	Limpopo Province	Mpumalanga	North West	Northern Cape	Western Cape	Grand Total
PNB1 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 1 SPECIALITY NURSING		5	63	11	13	1	6	6	34	139
PNB2 PROFESSIONAL NURSE GRADE 2 SPECIALITY NURSING	2	2	27		3	8	3		10	55
Grand Total	2	7	90	11	16	9	9	6	44	194

*Data extracted from the PERSAL System dated 31 May 2022

It is important to inform the Honourable Member that the trend of high number of production of specialist nurses vs low number of appointment (in the public sector) is because of a number of factors but not limited to:

- (i) Some nurse specialists are absorbed by the private sector after qualifying as specialists;
- (ii) Some nurse specialists especially ICU trained prefer to work for agencies as proven during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (iii) Some nurses underwent training towards *non-clinical specialty* programs such as Nursing Management and Nursing Education, as a way of preparing themselves for future career prospects when they apply to be managers etc. Incidentally, these two programs are the ones with higher production (see SANC data). It has also been empirically proven that sometimes nurses study for these programs to add bars on their epaulets as each one has a distinct bar, silver and white respectively;
- (iv) Some specialist nurse already employed within an Organization, may study towards a specialty of their choice as part of life-long learning not necessarily to be absorbed within that specialty. As an example, a nurse educator at a college may further pursue studies in Primary Health Care (PHC), so that they can teach PHC in the future but already employed as Specialist (nurse educator); and
- (v) Finally, in contrast, another example is psychiatric nurses who decide to study for the Occupational Nursing specialty just out of curiosity but not necessarily to work in an OHS environment.

END.