

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

The Hon. WALT SECORD: *Professor Watson, in your opening remarks you said that the University of New South Wales has had students on the Liverpool site for the last 30 years. Have you done studies on those students who remain or who returned to work in the region?*

Professor WATSON: *It is actually a little difficult to find the data out—you probably thought I would say that—for a whole lot of issues about tracking students after graduation and privacy and confidentiality. But if we do a first-pass analysis of where people's registration address is, and we are doing this at the moment in another context with our rural graduates, there is a very significant proportion, somewhere between 20 per cent and 35 per cent. I could do better than that if I took that question on more detailed notice.*

The CHAIR: *Absolutely.*

As foreshadowed at the hearing it turns out to be a difficult task to address this question with more certainty, principally because of consent and confidentiality issues, and data matching problems - the publicly available address(es) for medical practitioners (e.g. via AHPRA) may not appropriately answer the questions of a practitioner's primary or principal presence in a particular location. Such manpower and workforce issues concern Universities and Medical Faculties around the nation, along with registration bodies and funding and employing entities. I have not as yet identified a robust and comprehensive data set to answer the question with any certainty.

However I can offer a surrogate measure that might give the Inquiry a measure of comfort. This has come to light from the recent UNSW Medicine efforts in modernising our Conjoint (i.e. Honorary) Title Holders system: the proportion of our conjoints who are UNSW alumni.

Based on our new conjoint system we are able to state that 165/388 (42%) of our current conjoint academic title holders in SWSLHD are UNSW graduates. Thus at least 165 UNSW graduates are currently working at the South Western Sydney hospitals, and represent more than 40% of all those who are actively involved in undergraduate teaching and research (and clinical care) for both the University and the LHD.

J D G Watson

26 August 2020