

5 June 2019

Thank you for your email request received 6 May 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding the hours worked by senior doctors/consultants in our maternity wards. You requested:

1. *“How many consultants/senior doctors are rostered on and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays and between 10pm and 8am during the week?”*
2. *“If consultants/senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?)”*
3. *“What times are consultants/senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?)”*
4. *“Why are/why aren't consultants/senior doctors present/not present on the ward at all times?”*
5. *“Are senior doctors/consultants on call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?”*
6. *“How quickly are any on call-doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?”*
7. *“If senior doctors/consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc.)”*

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

“How many consultants/senior doctors are rostered on and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays and between 10pm and 8am during the week?”

None. The SMO's are on call (not on site). They are called in as required by the RMO, which is consistent across Australasia.

Question 2:

“If consultants/senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?)”

The shift starts from 0800 Saturday and finishes at 0800 Monday. (Consultants arrive at 0800 hrs on Saturday and Sunday morning to complete ward rounds, stay if needed, otherwise they are on call from home).

Question 3:

“What times are consultants/senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?)”

0800 - 0800 (24 hours). Rostered and present on site 0800-1600 and then on call for the remaining period.

Question 4:

“Why are/why aren't consultants/senior doctors present/not present on the ward at all times?”

Our rostering is consistent with other secondary maternity services across Australia and New Zealand, with rostered shifts and on-call periods for all consultants.

Question 5:

“Are senior doctors/consultants on call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?”

Yes, a consultant is always rostered to be on call.

Question 6:

“How quickly are any on call-doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?”

As soon as possible, not longer than 20 minutes.

Question 7:

“If senior doctors/consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc.)”

Midwives and junior doctors are on site for rostered shifts 24hours, 7days a week.