



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.17 p.m.): I commend the fire service officers and the Queensland Ambulance Service officers for the great work they do in our community. A number of weeks ago, I was invited to a fire service training session in an industrial estate at Darra. In a disused besser block building on the site, a room was set up as a lounge room, with old furniture, complete with armchairs, stereo, TV, curtains and cabinet. A cigarette was purposely left burning on the lounge chair. It did not take long before smoke started to seep through the doorway. Eventually this developed into a major blaze which eventually engulfed the room. The windows exploded and the smell of burning fabric wafted towards me.

The fire crew in training, equipped with hose, breathing apparatus and safety gear, entered the building and doused the flame. Within minutes the fire was under control and subsequently extinguished. These men came face to face with flame temperatures up to 400 degrees Centigrade, thick acrid smoke and debris under foot. These were only a few of the hazards that confronted them as they entered the building.

Once their job was completed, I entered the building to examine the aftermath of the fire. Officers explained to me that this was only a first step in their overall training. In a few weeks, another crew will investigate the scene to determine the cause of the fire. This is all part of the hands-on training provided to firefighters, who risk their lives in the normal course of their duties.

Research into the causes of fires is put to valuable use in educating the public in fire safety. This has resulted in Queensland having the lowest rate of preventable fire deaths in Australia. I congratulate the fire service and Minister Merri Rose for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our citizens.
