



Speech by

Mr T. MALONE

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Hansard 31 October 2001

FIREFIGHTERS

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): Today I wish to express my concerns over the recent psychometric test forming part of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority recruitment program. Recently, 120 candidates in Cairns undertook this test, with more than 58 per cent of candidates not passing the test—58 per cent—yet the majority of these men are experienced firefighters. I do not dispute the fact that we need experienced people working within our Fire Service, yet my concern lies with the fact that candidates can be ruled out of service based on a psychometric test completely ignoring their level of experience. This is bureaucracy gone mad.

Recently, I was contacted by a firefighter with five and a half years experience, 10 work-related certificates, such as breathing apparatus, road accident rescue, hazardous material management, incident command, confined space entry procedures (industrial), high entry rescue level 1, senior first aid and advanced resuscitation. This man has fought major structural fires, grassfires, bushfires, attended road accident rescues, chemicals spills and many other types of incidents. He has been involved in public education programs, such as Fire Education for Children, Operation Safe Home and the Road Accident Awareness and Prevention Program with school students.

This man is now being told that he is not fit to serve as a firefighter within the QFRA because 'the outcome of your psychometric assessment did not match the established requirements for the QFRA firefighter profile'. I would like to know whether the director-general and the minister have undertaken psychometric assessments to see whether they are fit to serve in their capacities. Auxiliaries who have failed the recruitment process because of the results of psychometric testing are outraged, and I can well understand their feelings. They have said that if they had failed because of lack of numeracy or literacy skills or physical fitness they would understand. But they did not.

Time expired.
