



Speech by

Mr R. QUINN

MEMBER FOR ROBINA

Hansard 19 June 2002

GOLD COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr QUINN (Robina—Lib) (1.54 a.m.): On Monday, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* carried the front-page story headlined 'Code red: Ambos' plea: Help us save your life'. Further in the body of the newspaper there was the heading 'Ambulance crisis: Lack of resources a matter of life and death'. The story contains comments and allegations by ambulance officers on the Gold Coast about a lack of resources which are putting patients' lives at risk. The article states—

... staff and vehicle shortages had led to frightening examples in which paramedics were too late to save lives.

In one case, officers attended a serious car accident on the northern Gold Coast and an injured man had bled to death before they arrived.

The article states further—

Another ambulance ferried four injured people to hospital with patients lying on the floor because no other vehicles were available.

In a city the size of the Gold Coast, with over 400,000 people, to have 11 ambulances, as claimed by the ambulance officer on this occasion, is certainly a crisis on the Gold Coast. This morning, when a question about this issue was asked of the minister, he made the admission that there was a lack of resources in terms of ambulance officers and vehicles on the Gold Coast and that he was doing his best to get additional resources to that area. That is not good enough for a city the size of the Gold Coast. It is the second largest city in Queensland and the sixth largest city in Australia. There are over 400,000 people there. Not only are those ambulance officers making the allegations; the allegations are confirmed by senior ambulance officers on the Gold Coast and confirmed by this minister in the chamber this morning: yes, there is a crisis in that area and the minister is doing his best.

The growth on the Gold Coast has been known by all governments for the best part of 20 years. We know that we are under pressure in terms of trying to provide additional resources for schools, hospitals, ambulances and fire services. But for the minister to admit that he is doing his best, that that matter has been known by him for some time and that he has been unable to provide those additional resources to the Ambulance Service on the Gold Coast is a frightening revelation that the government is not discharging its obligations to the people of the Gold Coast. It is another example of the silent seven sitting in this House doing nothing while the people of the Gold Coast are missing out on vital resources.

Mr Lawlor interjected.

Mr QUINN: The only time the member for Southport mentions something in this place is when someone else gets up and identifies the problems on the Gold Coast. Other than that, he sits there saying nothing. This is a serious problem and one that deserves a better response than the one that the minister gave this morning.