



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Thursday, 9 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Saving Lives

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.18 am): It is nice to see happy stories reported in the media every now and then. We have had a number of incidents reported lately where there have been very positive outcomes from life-threatening situations.

There was the story of a mother on Brisbane's south side who was a diabetic and who fainted into her backyard swimming pool. While one of her daughters held her head above the water the other daughter called 000.

Mr Reeves: They're a great family.

Mr PURCELL: I take the interjection from the member for Mansfield. When paramedics arrived on the scene in less than 10 minutes, they were greeted at the property by one of the daughters who calmly guided the paramedics to the pool. In another pool incident in December last year, a woman was swimming with her friends in an apartment complex pool when she got into trouble under water, lost consciousness and stopped breathing. Fortunately, her friend knew CPR and was able to perform first aid until such time as the paramedics arrived and stabilised the patient.

There was the case in February on the north coast when the QAS received a 000 call from a terrified 11-year-old boy whose father was suffering an asthma attack. While the boy was on the phone his father stopped breathing. However, through the great work of the ambulance communications officer, he was able to calm the boy down and provide instructions on how to perform mouth-to-mouth. The boy kept his dad resuscitated until paramedics got to the scene.

Mr Cummins: Hear, hear!

Mr PURCELL: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana. All three patients survived because of one thing. In each instance a bystander knew what to do in a medical emergency. Members of the House know that my department is committed to making Queensland communities safer. Members of this House also know that Queensland boasts the best funded, best equipped, best trained and most technically capable paramedics in the country.

In a medical emergency every second counts, and as such community safety is a responsibility we all must share. I have signed up to do a first-aid and CPR course with the Queensland Ambulance Service to learn the latest techniques introduced around the world last week. I encourage all Queenslanders and all members of this House to do the same.