



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Thursday, 10 August 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Ambulance Service, Recruitment

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.22 am): I would like to inform the House of the ongoing efforts of the Queensland Ambulance Service to provide this state with a world-class service. Queensland's rapidly growing and ageing population is posing a considerable challenge for the Queensland Ambulance Service. With demand for its services on the rise, the QAS is constantly recruiting more staff to ensure it continues to meet demand. The Beattie government is in the final year of a three-year commitment to put on an extra 240 paramedics to help meet this demand. In addition, we are in the first year of a three-year initiative to appoint 144 extra ambulance officers to boost working conditions for QAS staff.

With these programs in place, I am pleased to report to the House that the latest batch of ambulance recruits has hit the streets in recent weeks. These 31 new student paramedics are in the field after having done their first stint of classroom work. Now they will start to put what they have learnt into practice. They will spend 10 months performing the role of second officer at new stations right around the state, assisting qualified paramedics in the assessment and treatment of patients.

With these recruits hitting the road, it is an opportune time to encourage Queenslanders to consider a career with the QAS. Queenslanders who are interested in a rewarding career and who enjoy helping others in a time of need should consider becoming a paramedic. Paramedics are consistently voted as Australia's most trusted professionals. In times of emergency and distress, paramedics are some of the first people on the scene to help respond. Not only does becoming an ambulance officer provide a rewarding career, QAS staff receive world-class training and become part of a dynamic, progressive organisation.

Tabled paper: Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. P Purcell titled 'Ambulance recruitment'.