



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Wednesday, 11 October 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Intensive Care Paramedics

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.13 am): Before I begin, could I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on attaining the high office of Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr PURCELL: The Queensland Ambulance Service is leading Australia in providing world-class prehospital emergency care to the community. Our paramedics are well equipped and highly trained, and that is especially true of our intensive care paramedics, known as ICPs. ICPs are highly qualified paramedics who specialise in severe trauma cases, and I am pleased to advise the House that this month marks the 10th anniversary of the intensive care paramedic program in Queensland.

ICPs have proven to be a vital addition to the Queensland Ambulance Service over the past decade, providing expert care to our communities. In addition to the high level of skills held by all paramedics, they can administer a greater range of drugs and perform more complex medical procedures than ever before.

To become an ICP, a paramedic must complete a Graduate Diploma in Intensive Care Paramedics, which involves a year of full-time study. Two hundred ambulance officers have graduated as intensive care paramedics in Queensland during the past decade. ICPs care for the whole of Queensland. They are located in every QAS region, in stations from Weipa to the Tweed to out west and everywhere in between.

Intensive care paramedics are making a difference to patient care in Queensland. In 2004 the percentage of patients who were delivered to hospital with return of a spontaneous heartbeat had risen to 21.6 per cent, up from 18.3 per cent in 2000. The impact of ICPs is a major reason for this increase. 'Quality Every Time' is the aim of the Queensland Ambulance Service, and it achieves this goal remarkably well. On behalf of all Queenslanders and members of this House, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognise the expertise of our ICPs and thank all Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics for the wonderful work they do.