



Speech by

**Hon. Pat Purcell**

**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

Hansard Thursday, 22 February 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Ambulance Service, Student Paramedics**

**Hon. PD PURCELL** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.06 am): I am pleased to inform the House that 43 new Queensland Ambulance Service student paramedics will hit the road right around the state next week to begin their on-road training. The first-year student paramedics have completed the first block of class based tuition and will now undergo 10 months practical on-road training as they begin their careers in the field, going to the aid of Queenslanders.

They will perform the role of second officers at their new stations, assisting qualified paramedics in the assessment and treatment of the patients. Over the coming months, they will experience the full range of tasks that a paramedic can expect to encounter from major trauma in motor vehicle accidents to delivering babies. On that note, I would like to congratulate Steve Zsombok, our QAS area director in Mackay, who recently delivered his own baby. I met the baby on the weekend. His wife and the baby are doing very well. The baby already has to have her hair combed. She has a real head of hair, as the member for Mackay has said.

During their training period, student paramedics will be taught basic life support skills that include defibrillator usage and medication administration for conditions such as asthma and chest pain. At the end of their 10-month practical session the student paramedics will return to Brisbane for more theory before once again heading back to their home base for further on-the-job experience.

I would also like to thank our experienced paramedics for their mentoring skills and great patience and expertise in training our student paramedics. With the number of students paramedics we have in Queensland that role will continue for sometime. I want to reiterate that our experienced paramedics have been great mentors. I thank them for the great job they do.

When they graduate the students will be qualified with a Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance) and will return to their regions to begin their role as fully qualified paramedics, ensuring their communities continue to receive a first-class ambulance service. Members of the House will be aware that the group of 43 new student paramedics is part of a state government commitment to provide an additional 350 paramedics over four years, helping boost prehospital medical care throughout Queensland. Since being elected the Beattie government has more than doubled the QAS budget and we will continue to make sure they have the resources they need to care for all Queenslanders.