



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Tuesday, 13 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ambulance Service, Recruitment Campaign

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10.05 am): I am pleased to announce that this month the first group of 53 paramedics from the United Kingdom will join the ranks of the Queensland Ambulance Service. Last year the Queensland Ambulance Service kicked off its successful sea change recruitment campaign to attract qualified paramedics to our world-class Ambulance Service. Fifty-three paramedics from the UK were appointed as part of the campaign. All of them are due to arrive between now and December, with five of them commencing their induction process next week. I am pleased to say that the interest from qualified paramedics in the UK was very strong and exceeded expectations. In fact, a Queensland Ambulance Service recruitment team has returned to the UK to finalise the selection process for a further 73 applicants.

The benefits of gaining new perspectives and further diversity will be beneficial for our Ambulance Service and, indeed, the wider Queensland community. Furthermore, the qualified paramedics we are recruiting are of an exceptionally high standard. Many of them already possess some of the advanced clinical skills that will be introduced into the Queensland Ambulance Service in coming years, particularly in areas such as cardiac treatment. In addition to being provided with first-class training by the Queensland Ambulance Service, we are doing all we can to help these paramedics make the transition as smoothly as we possibly can given that they are making substantial changes to their life and work environments. Each recruit has been assigned a voluntary Queensland Ambulance Service paramedic buddy. The buddies will provide our UK recruits with advice about things like housing, schools and sporting and family interests. This QAS overseas recruitment campaign is just one example of how the Beattie government is committed to providing Queenslanders with world-class prehospital care. Since coming to office in 1998, we have more than doubled the QAS budget to over \$355 million and this year the QAS is in its final year of putting on an extra 350 paramedics. I look forward to welcoming these new recruits to our already hardworking ambulance family and to our great state over the coming months.