



Speech by

Hon. Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Friday, 8 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Ambulance Service, Intensive Care Paramedics

Hon. PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (9.50 am): Last sitting I informed the House that just last month paramedics were again voted Australia's most trusted profession. There is good reason for this, given the skills and expertise of modern paramedics.

I am pleased to inform the House that the latest batch of Queensland's intensive care paramedic students are being put through their paces. They are now reaching the final stages of the Graduate Diploma of Intensive Care Paramedic Practice, from which they will join the ranks of the most highly trained ambulance officers in the state—and, I would say, in the world. In addition to the high level of skills held by paramedics, ICPs can administer a greater range of drugs and perform more complex medical procedures.

Recently, 20 student ICPs from across the state underwent a week of scenario based training in Brisbane. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Queensland Rescue and police special operations were also involved in the exercises. It was a chance for the students to develop their newly acquired skills. Every ICP student participated in every scenario, playing a different role. That allowed them to get a realistic experience of what it will be like to be the primary patient care officer. They also had an opportunity to review their fellow students and to assist them as they would in real life. The focus of the week is on good debriefing, with students encouraged to reflect on their performance after each scenario.

The intensive care paramedic program is now in its 10th year in Queensland. Their ranks are swelling every year, with more than 200 paramedics having already completed the university training required to become an ICP. Initiatives such as the ICP program, the rural and remote paramedic program and the introduction of new drugs such as the meningococcal antibiotic show how the QAS continues to drive clinical excellence. It is clear that all Queenslanders have every right to place Queensland's paramedics as their No. 1 most trusted profession.