



Speech by

## Hon. Neil Roberts

MEMBER FOR NUDGEЕ

Hansard Thursday, 3 September 2009

---

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### **Ambulance Service; Australasian Council of Women and Policing, Awards**

**Hon. NS ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): Next week is Ambulance Week in Queensland. Ambulance Week is a time to recognise the outstanding efforts of our ambulance officers and the excellent organisational performance of the Queensland Ambulance Service. As I have indicated in the House on numerous occasions, the Queensland Ambulance Service is a national leader in terms of performance standards and quality of service provided. For example, in 2008-09 in 50 per cent of emergency cases, a Queensland ambulance is on the scene within 8.4 minutes. By comparison, in New South Wales the 50th percentile time was 10.3 minutes. In 90 per cent of Queensland cases, our ambulances arrive within 17.2 minutes.

Queensland paramedics are Australian and world leaders when it comes to clinical practice. The Queensland Ambulance Service has implemented a state-wide strategy in cardiac care that now sees its officers administering clot-busting drugs in the community to patients who are suffering a heart attack. Previously, these life-saving drugs were only available in a hospital environment. In fact, the Queensland Ambulance Service has developed the largest pre-hospital reperfusion strategy in Australasia and is recognised as a leader in this area.

One component of Ambulance Week this year will be the relaunch of the 000 awareness campaign. The campaign involves a series of television and radio advertisements which encourage appropriate use of 000. The central theme of the campaign is why call an ambulance when it is not really need when your pharmacist, doctor or 13HEALTH can help. The campaign will run for a 10-week period.

Finally, I want to draw to the attention of the House that four Queensland police officers have been recognised at the Australasian Council of Women and Policing awards 2009. In fact, Queensland officers won four of the 13 awards presented. Superintendent Anne Macdonald, the district officer at Bundaberg, was awarded the Audrey Fagan Award, which identifies the most inspirational female officer in the country. Superintendent Macdonald was also awarded the most outstanding female leader. Townsville based regional crime prevention coordinator Senior Sergeant Janelle Poole was named the most outstanding female practitioner. Senior Constable Bronagh Gillespie from Doomadgee CIB was named the most outstanding female investigator, and a fourth officer, Roma district education and training officer Sergeant Nyree Whelan, was highly commended for most outstanding female administrator. I place on the record my congratulations to these officers for their awards and acknowledge their outstanding contribution to policing in Queensland.