



Speech by

Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE; SAMFORD FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH (Ferny Grove—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise in the House today to pay tribute to the Queensland Ambulance Service first responders and, in particular, the Queensland Ambulance Service first responders from the Samford area. The Samford First Responders are a group of volunteers from the local community who work closely with the Queensland Ambulance Service and, in turn, are indebted to the Queensland Ambulance Service for provision of training, support and mentoring. The Samford First Responders are responsible for an area of over 100 square kilometres including Highvale, Camp Mountain, Wights Mountain, Mount Glorious, Mount Nebo, Closeburn and the Samford Village areas. Their role is to provide initial response to 000 calls.

The volunteers are qualified in advanced first aid and basic life support through the use of oxygen and automatic external defibrillators. Working with the paramedics who are rostered on, the first responders aim to cover a 24/7 roster, with individuals nominating their availability in advance to allow for rostering of nominees to provide as much forward notice as possible. Currently, the first responders from the Samford station are responding to an average of 50 calls per month. This volunteer organisation, like many others, relies upon the goodwill of local businesses and individuals to sustain their operations and continue to provide this outstanding service to the local area.

On the weekend, as part of the Queensland Ambulance Service's 21st birthday celebrations, the station at Samford was open to the public throughout the morning. I was treated to a tour of the station, a look-through of an ambulance and a brush-up of my own first-aid knowledge with the CPR mannequin. I inquired about the number of participants and the level of community awareness of first-aid procedures. It seems that—anecdotally at least—there is a decline in public willingness to participate in provision of first aid at the scene of emergencies. It is not, as I would have thought, due to the fear of litigation. Rather, it seems simply attributable to the lack of public knowledge and awareness of what actions are necessary.

I spent the remainder of the morning wondering how the delivery of first-aid training could be delivered into the future in a method that ensured the majority of Queenslanders had the basic first aid understanding. Two possibilities that seem most logical to me are the inclusion of a first-aid emergency training courses as part of our senior and junior certificates at schools or, alternatively, ensuring that the attainment of the recognised training standard is included as part of motor vehicle licensing requirements. I would encourage members and ministers to look at ways of incorporating outcomes such as this for the betterment of all in emergency first aid.