



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2014

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Malanda Local Ambulance Committee**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.23 pm): The Malanda Local Ambulance Committee is passionate about delivering the best emergency service to members of this rural community. Over the last 18 months they have worked hard and have raised enough hard-earned funds to purchase a Lucas 2 compression unit for the Malanda Ambulance Service. Despite the system being recognised as valuable by the Minister for Health, the donation was rejected by the minister. I am advised that, since the minister's rejection, the Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane has ordered two such machines. Malanda is a small rural community suffering from the economic decline of the dairy industry. Residents of Malanda are deeply saddened by the minister's refusal to accept their generous donation and see this as a kick in the guts to have a lifesaving, well-proven, specialist machine rejected. The volunteers who worked hard to collect this money and those who donated hard-earned cash for the purchase of lifesaving equipment are offering the minister another chance to accept their generous offer which undoubtedly will assist paramedics in saving the lives of people in their community.

Lucas 2 has been shown to significantly improve quality and consistency of compression compared to manual CPR. This is mainly due to the fact that this device keeps the blood pumping at the correct and constant depth and rate, considerably reducing the risk of brain and neurological damage. The Lucas delivers compression according to guidelines of a five centimetre depth, 100 compressions per minute, equal time for compression and decompression, and full chest recoil. Performing manual CPR according to the guidelines is difficult and tiring, requiring strength not only of the body but also of the mind. Therefore, depth and rate must differ after some time has elapsed. It is possible that the officer may be alone and is responsible for transporting that casualty to hospital. The Lucas 2 would obviously be invaluable in such a case.

Lucas 2 moves with the patient from the emergency and continues to provide effective compression, helping to maintain good circulation, enabling the paramedic to continue observation. The patient is then transferred to a hospital. Lucas 2 facilitates the ongoing management of acute and threatening complications, further freeing up valuable time and resources in an emergency. I have the greatest admiration for our paramedics. They are on call to attend accident victims in the fastest, safest time. Many of these paramedics are called out in the late hours of the night or have been recalled for duty, but it is important that they are professionally equipped because we are talking about a life-or-death situation and a machine like this can prevent families losing loved ones. I was encouraged to hear that Lucas 2 has been approved for use at the Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane and urge the minister to accept the generous offer made by the Malanda Local Ambulance Committee and commend this group for their contribution to their community.