



Speech By
Linus Power
MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Fuller, Mr G

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (10.53 pm): Sometimes the job of being a representative of the Queensland parliament is very humbling. This was exactly the case when I joined the health and ambulance services minister, Cameron Dick, to honour Logan West ambulance officer-in-charge Gary Fuller and present him with his 30-year long service medal at the Logan West station last week. Gary Fuller has served the Ambulance Service for 30 years and continues to serve as the station's OIC at the Logan West Ambulance Station on Wineglass Drive.

He was one of the first paramedics to complete the flight paramedic course and served in regional Queensland before coming to Logan West 23 years ago. Throughout his 30 years of service to Queensland as an ambulance officer, hundreds and hundreds of Queenslanders depended on Gary in their hour of greatest need. He was among those who worked tirelessly at the scene of the infamous Mount Tamborine bus crash in 1990, where 11 died and 37 were injured.

As Minister Cameron Dick spoke at the award ceremony of the horrors of the bus crash, I was looking at Gary Fuller's face. I thought I could see him reliving some of the traumatic memories that so many ambulance officers carry around in their heads well into retirement. One paramedic even told me that every time he hears an ambulance siren the memories come flooding back. Their service stays with them, and for that alone they deserve our respect.

It was not only at tragic events where Gary served Queenslanders. During his career he also delivered seven babies. He said five were born in the back of the ambulance at the side of the road and two in their homes. That is seven Queenslanders around our great state who can say that they were brought into this world by the Ambulance Service at the hands of officer Gary Fuller.

Gary took Cameron Dick and me through the workings of a modern ambulance and explained that when he first started the ambulances were very basic. They were simply Holden WB panel vans that were fitted with a stretcher in the back. In the past 30 years ambulance officers have become much more skilled at administering advanced emergency care and now form the first line of our health system, saving thousands of lives.

Paramedics from across South Brisbane turned out to recognise Gary's achievement. However, even on a day that was supposed to be all about Gary, he wanted to recognise the whole Ambulance Service and especially the fantastic team at Logan West. He was so dedicated that when I first turned up to the ambulance station he was yet to arrive because he was out shopping for the catering that we would later put on to celebrate his own 30 years of service.

Although Gary deserved to be in the spotlight that day, he was also right to share it with others. In Logan West, in Jimboomba and throughout Logan, Queensland ambulance officers come to work every day to serve us not knowing what they might have to face and how their skills might be tested.

The traumatic accident on the M1 Motorway in the past week is testament to that. Next time you see an ambulance officer or a police officer or someone else who works in the service of Queensland, take the time to let them know you appreciate what they do every day to make us safer and healthier.

Thanks, Gary, for all you have done for us in the last 30 years, and thank you to all of our great servants of the public who are in the Queensland Public Service who do so much for Queensland every year.