



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Kirwan, Queensland Ambulance Service**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (1.05 am): I rise to share my recent experience in joining the crews of the Queensland Ambulance Service at Kirwan station in Thuringowa over the last week for not only an honorary unpaid shift but also the opportunity to complete the Safe 2 workshop relating to occupational safety training and violence prevention which, as we know, is part of the commitment of the Palaszczuk government, and particularly the health minister, to ensure that thousands of paramedics have adequate training and skills to not only better identify at-risk situations but also have the adequate training when necessary to better protect themselves or remove themselves when necessary from a high-risk situation. This of course was largely thanks to the task force formed in response to paramedic assaults, including representatives from United Voice and the Queensland Ambulance Service. This training has been established largely with the Queensland Police Service expertise peer training. They have provided background lessons to QAS peer trainers and this collaborative response is key to lessons learned from those who are also exposed to high-risk situations. Phrases like POP—place, object, person—contact and cover, and positions of safety have now become second language to paramedics as well. As a paramedic of over 25 years it was a real eye-opener to complete this scenario based training. There were key training aspects of this course which have many take-home messages—things like ‘distance equals safety’ and also having that increased situational awareness of not only yourself but your partner and your patient as well.

I want to thank a few officers such as John O’Shea, a fellow advanced care paramedic, who conducted the four-hour peer training. I also want to thank fellow officers Jay Wells and Wayne Harper—no relation but a great surname—who joined me. Whilst on the acknowledgement path, I also want to thank the acting officer in charge of the Queensland Ambulance Service at the Kirwan station, Clark Magelle, who has over 20 years service. I also want to thank officers Cameron Turner and Wayne Harper again for allowing me to join them in doing a day shift where we got the opportunity to treat several patients in Thuringowa over the course of the day. I must also acknowledge the educational staff of Michael Granger, Brad Garvey, Brendan Bell and Rob Haydon—all clinical support officers—for their assistance in ensuring my professional development and training as an advanced care paramedic is current after having completed my guided clinical validation. I have also had the opportunity to train in the new corpuls defibrillator and power lift stretchers, which are each technological advances in the Queensland Ambulance Service that will save lives and reduce lifting injuries in the Ambulance Service. These are certainly a great investment in what I say is the best Ambulance Service in the world, but of course I might be a bit biased in that.