



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Ambulance Week**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): This week is Ambulance Week, a week when we recognise and pay tribute to all of the talented and hardworking staff of the Queensland Ambulance Service. Ambulance Week commemorates the anniversary of Queensland's first civil ambulance service and recognises the dedication and commitment of our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, patient transport officers and ambulance volunteers. This year is the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Queensland Ambulance Service, as well as the local ambulance committees that replaced the Queensland ambulance transport brigade boards back in 1991. This was an early reform of the Goss government, one of many which modernised Queensland after the torpor of the Bjelke-Petersen era. Next year will be an even bigger milestone as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of ambulance services in our state.

Queensland ambos are always ready to answer our call for help, to care for us when we are sick and injured and to comfort us after trauma and tragedy. Tomorrow I will be attending the QAS remembrance service and achievement awards ceremony where ambulance officers who have performed above and beyond expectations will be recognised for their service. While our Ambulance Service does a fantastic job, we must also acknowledge the significant workload that it is currently facing. In recent months the QAS workload has spiked as it attended 88,326 incidents in the month of August alone. That is around 3,400 more cases than the QAS attended in August last year. In August the QAS received a total of 66,338 000 calls, which is the highest number of calls ever received by the QAS in a one-month period.

Indeed, the QAS faces a significant increase in its workload in the coming years as the state's population ages and the impact of chronic illness grows. We need to ensure our ambulance officers have the resources they need to continue delivering a high standard of care into the future. That is why the Palaszczuk government has invested heavily in front-line services and increased the Queensland Ambulance Service budget by over \$80 million. That is why we increased ambulance officer numbers by 115 last financial year and we will increase those numbers by a further 110 this financial year. We are investing \$59.7 million in capital expenditure across Queensland, including ambulance facilities, land, fleet, medical equipment, and information and communications technology. The Palaszczuk government supports our state's ambulance officers and today I would like to sincerely thank the men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service for all the work they do for Queensland.