




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Tragedies, Emergency Services Personnel

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.10 am): Last Tuesday our emergency services were called to a terrible tragedy at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast. I would like to acknowledge the family and friends of the victims and the staff and visitors who were present at the park that day. You are in our thoughts and you have the support of communities not only across Queensland but across the country at this difficult time.

I wish to make special mention of the emergency services officers, namely, the numerous paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers who worked together in responding to a difficult and traumatic event. These men and women are in the business of saving lives. They are driven by the desire to help those in need. Their motives for doing so are selfless. No paramedic wants to attend a job where they cannot make a difference. Whether working physically at the scene or providing operational support behind the scenes, all staff involved deserve our utmost respect and gratitude. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all emergency workers, paramedics, medical dispatchers and health employees for the job they did that day and for the job they do each and every day across Queensland to help Queenslanders in their time of need.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to those QAS and Queensland Health primary healthcare centre staff who also serve on the front line and who responded to the recent tragedy at Kowanyama. The Queensland Ambulance Service field officer was Melissa Keune. The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service nursing staff at Kowanyama were Annemarie Scully, Jebet Kipsaina, David Nunn, Laura Higgins—who is a clinical nurse consultant—Catherine O'Connor, Rebecca Hadwin, Faye Spencer and Anne MacGillivray. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to thank all of our frontline Health staff for their courage and dedication to duty.