



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ambulance Service

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.43 am): I am pleased to inform the House that 2017 marks 125 years since ambulance services began in Queensland. Queensland's Ambulance Service has a long and distinguished history, having served the Queensland community since September 1892 when a group of concerned citizens came together to establish the City Ambulance Transport Brigade. The original intent has prevailed through time, and that is providing care and support to the sick and injured in the Queensland community. The 125th anniversary of the Queensland Ambulance Service provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the incredible efforts of our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, patient transport officers, ambulance volunteers and all of those who came before them.

Every day the Queensland Ambulance Service responds to serious traffic accidents, near drownings, patients suffering serious conditions such as cardiac arrest or stroke, mothers delivering babies at home or on the side of the road and patients with mental health issues. Through it all, the QAS has provided the highest standard of prehospital care. The QAS answers approximately 737,000 triple 0 calls and responds to more than 986,000 incidents every year. In 2016, demand for ambulance services was at record highs, rising by five per cent, and an extra 66,000 calls were made to triple 0 seeking assistance from the Queensland Ambulance Service, an increase of nine per cent.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to ensure that Queensland ambulance officers are well supported and well resourced. As a government, we have increased the Queensland Ambulance Service budget by \$80 million to a record \$673 million. We have allocated 155 new and replacement vehicles and increased ambulance officer numbers by 2025.

Queensland Ambulance Service staff and volunteers deserve the respect and gratitude of all Queenslanders for the important work they do for our community. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that our dedicated ambulance officers have the equipment, infrastructure and support required to perform their essential roles so that they can continue to provide the highest level of prehospital health care to our community.

It is a badge of pride to be called the Minister for Ambulance Services. That is in no small part because the Queensland Ambulance Service is the envy of the other states. I look forward to joining the Queensland community in saying thank you to the men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service during this important and special year.