




Speech By  
**Craig Crawford**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

**HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to this debate. I spent 15 years as a paramedic, obviously until 2015. I have a lot of content knowledge in what we are talking about. When I started in Victoria in the 1990s there was talk about registering paramedics. I transferred to Queensland. The transfer process between states is quite difficult for paramedics even to this day because of the amount of work that has to be done by the prospective employee to prove to the ambulance service to which they are moving that they have the capability, qualifications and ability to do the job.

For 20 or 30 years there has been talk about registering paramedics in Australia and it is a delight to be in this House as a member of parliament when we start to make significant tracks into doing that. We need to protect the paramedic title. It is used inappropriately by some. It is a very important title. It deserves protection. We need to register our paramedics; it is the right thing to do. Of course, other states will follow this process. We particularly need to ensure that our paramedics can transfer between states as freely and easily as nursing and other professions where there are not cumbersome processes to prove that they are good operators. Paramedics who work interstate get more experience in more diverse fields, making them better operators, whether remote, rural or in the city, irrespective of the colour of their uniform or the state in which they work.

I was on the QAS Clinical Review Committee for a year or two where a group of us were tasked with reviewing situations in Queensland that went horribly wrong and making recommendations to the medical director about the future of that particular paramedic's employment. In a way we were operating a type of registration board. We are now making the best step of all in sending this to a nationwide board. I thank everyone involved and I most strongly support this bill.