




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fire and Emergency Services, Skills

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.02 am): In the last 12 months I have had the good fortune to visit more than 60 electorates across Queensland spending time in urban, remote and regional areas. From the New South Wales border to Mornington Island and of course my own Far North Queensland electorate of Barron River, I have had the opportunity to meet and greet and shake many hands and chat with hundreds of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff and volunteers, and there are a lot of them. The vast majority of them are full-time or part-time. They have families. They volunteer in a number of roles that involve study and various hobbies and I thank them very much for their commitment.

In talking with our staff and volunteers, the one thing that truly connects them is their desire to give back to their communities. Every individual brings their own set of skills to their volunteering. They might be an accountant or a schoolteacher. They might be a scientist who volunteers their time with the QFES scientific team to identify hazardous and biological materials, and every single person gets to add those skills through the experience and training they get. Practical skills range from learning how to perform CPR and apply first aid to four-wheel-driving operations, chainsaw operations, drone operations and the list goes on. Grant writing, water rescue, water safety, fundraising and medical transfers can also be thrown into the mix.

There are those other less specific skills that we pick up along the way like team building, leadership and the confidence that comes with being competent in all of these areas. There are skills and training that will feed into volunteers' everyday lives both at work and at home. It could lead to a new job, a promotion or maybe a career change. We are recognising the work of our volunteers and working with them currently to ensure that we are meeting their needs through the QFES Volunteerism Strategy launched in October this year, and already I have met with dozens of our personnel from the Brisbane North area at Redcliffe and the Toowoomba regions about this new strategy. In the coming weeks we will be visiting Rockhampton, Townsville, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Wide Bay before heading up to Cairns to consult our volunteers and our staff about how we can continue to best serve them under this government strategy.

Before I finish speaking about skills, I received a brief this morning that overnight a crew from Camp Hill attended an incident at Morningside where a small Chihuahua puppy called Raven was stuck down the back of a recliner in the mechanism. I am informed that the Camp Hill crew, led by firefighter Keith Hansen, managed to remove the puppy from the back of the chair. Unfortunately, there were no signs of life and thinking that the puppy was deceased, using the skills that our crew had, they started a resus and they were successful. They used oxygen equipment as well as all of their best puppy resus skills, which is something we do not actually teach them at the academy! They brought Raven back to life. I am advised that they also transported Raven to a 24-hour vet in their Scania Pumper, which again is something that is not normally done. A big cheerio to our crews for a fantastic job well done.