




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Ambulance Service, Resources

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): With over five million people calling Queensland home, there are more people relying on our ambos than ever before. The Queensland Ambulance Service experienced its busiest financial year ever in 2017-18, recording more than one million incidents across Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring the QAS is equipped with the resources it needs to do its incredibly important job. That is why last election we promised to employ an additional 100 ambulance officers across Queensland. I am pleased that the Premier announced today that the government is delivering on our election commitment. The additional 100 ambulance officers will soon be deployed right across Queensland communities to help keep up with increasing demand from our growing and ageing population. From Kuranda to Southport, the additional staff, along with all our paramedics and QAS staff, will continue to do an incredible job, providing life-saving, pre-hospital care to more than five million Queenslanders.

We are ensuring ambulance officers have the funding, equipment, training and resources they need to provide the very best in emergency care. Since 2015 we have employed an additional 508 ambulance officers—and that is not all. We have increased the Queensland ambulance operating budget by \$211 million and purchased over 600 new and replacement ambulance vehicles across the state, including 85 this financial year, because we on this side of the House believe everyone should have access to world-class health care no matter where in Queensland they live.

The new and replacement ambulances contain the new power assisted stretchers, which are already proving their worth, significantly reducing manual-handling injuries. This is a great help for our paramedics and for their patients. The stretchers reduce the strain on paramedics' bodies and help to reduce the risk of manual-handling injuries. Our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers and patient transport officers work tirelessly to provide emergency care to Queenslanders. They do a tremendous job of looking after the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. I welcome the new staff into the Queensland Ambulance Service and know they will make a valuable contribution to their communities.