




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Ambulance Service, Road Incident

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.46 am): I rise to make a brief ministerial statement to update the House on the tragic incident that I advised of on Tuesday morning. On Tuesday, my director-general, the Acting Commissioner for the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer visited Rockhampton and Biloela to meet with family members and staff grieving the loss of a staff member and patient.

An 87-year-old male patient and a 65-year-old male nurse were tragically killed when a truck ran into an ambulance at roadworks near Rockhampton. Three other people in the ambulance miraculously survived, including another patient, a paramedic and an operational services officer. This loss will be felt by so many. I know this House will join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the family, loved ones and community for this tragic loss in the course of everyday patient care.

I also want to acknowledge Biloela paramedic, Ash O'Connor, who in spite of being involved in this accident, immediately turned to providing first responder care to all of the victims. To Ash, his colleagues and family, we are so proud of you and your professionalism and selfless care of others.

I would also like to pay respect to Ray Wyeth, a much loved nurse, husband, father and grandfather who tragically lost his life while caring for a patient in the ambulance. Our heart goes out to his wife, Jennie, son, Tim, and the extended family. In their grief, Jennie and Tim took the time to tell my director-general and other staff their stories which gave them a precious insight into Ray's life and his dedication to patient care across rural and remote Australia. Jennie also shared a short tribute to her husband, Ray, which she has agreed for me to share with this chamber in his honour—

Ray Wyeth.

Just like a soldier in battle, he died in the line of duty, duty and care for others.

His were the hands that alleviated the pain, that touched and encouraged the fearful and those facing death.

Even in the time of his own death he was looking after the person in his care, assuring this elderly patient he would be with him. This person had Ray right by his side.

Together they died.

Hundreds of patients have experienced his helping hands, his wealth of experience and his ability.

Even as he lost his own life, Ray's hands were extended to help and support someone else.

We take great comfort from this and learn from his example of service.

Ray lived this scripture: "I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:37.

Vale, Ray Wyeth.