

**Question on Notice No. 567, Thursday, 20 May 2004.**

**Mr MCARDLE** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins)- Will he detail the total number of rural fire fighter volunteers trained by the Department of Emergency Services in each statistical region and for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 (reported separately)?

**Mr CUMMINS:**

This information is not routinely collected by statistical region.

The Beattie government has identified volunteer training as a priority. In 2001-02 a \$2.5M initiative to enhance volunteer training was implemented. As a result of the Government Election commitment, the amount spent on enhanced training for RFS volunteers will double to \$2M over the next three years, from 1 July 2004. The additional funding will be utilised to supplement and extend the initiative to expand the provision of training materials to all rural fire service volunteers.

The safety of all volunteers is and will continue to be paramount amongst the concerns of the Government and myself.