

Question on Notice

No. 808

Asked on 17 August 2004

MRS E CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (Mr MACKENROTH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the ambulance levy –

- (1) What is the gross amount collected by the energy companies?
- (2) What amount do they retain for administration of the scheme?
- (3) What amount does Treasury retain for administration of the scheme?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Queensland Government has provided a solid funding base to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). The introduction of the Community Ambulance Cover (CAC) scheme has given the QAS a predictable, long term funding source to maintain our world class ambulance service. Through the annual Budget process the Government ensures that the total CAC collections, after meeting the costs of administration, are appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services to fund the ambulance service.

The actual amount collected for the 2003-04 financial year (not a full year of collections) on an accrual basis was \$95.7 million.

- (2&3) Neither Treasury nor the electricity retailers retain any monies collected through the levy. All levies are remitted to the Office of State Revenue to form part of the Consolidated Fund.

Under Part 6 of the *Community Ambulance Cover Act 2003*, electricity retailers act as agents for the Commissioner of State Revenue, who is responsible for administration of the scheme.

The retailers invoice the Commissioner for services provided under administration agreements covering specified functions such as invoicing, call centre functions, and exemption application processing.

The actual administration costs to retailers and the Office of State Revenue for 2003-04 was \$6.125 million. These costs are exclusive of GST in terms of payments to electricity retailers, and include some implementation costs for setting up the scheme and introducing the additional exemptions.