

Question on Notice No. 896, Thursday, 19 August 2004

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -
With reference to his recent attendance at the State Fire Fighter Championships held in Moranbah –

How do competitions such as this help ensure Queensland continues to have world class emergency service personnel?

Mr CUMMINS:

I thank the Member for his Question and would like to congratulate him on his ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within his electorate.

Some of Queensland's top firefighters put their skills to the test during the State Firefighters Championships at Moranbah during August. The championships put on display the hard work, skills, and levels of fitness needed to carry out the work of a firefighter.

Firefighters are the front line of their local communities – they are highly trained, skilled, and dedicated, and they risk their own personal safety to save lives and property. The championships not only develop and encourage operational competencies among the State's auxiliary firefighters, but encourage camaraderie between firefighters from various stations and regions. The competition's teams consisted of auxiliary firefighters of any rank, who take part in events reflecting their firefighter duties when responding to emergency incidents in their communities.

The tradition of competition amongst Queensland Firefighters has been established over several decades with the inaugural Queensland Firefighter championship being held in 1983. Since this time the championship format has standardized to reflect core operational firefighting skills

The State Firefighter Championship is an annual event that brings together the top fourteen station teams progressing from their respective Regional Competitions, contesting for the title of Champion Team and Champion Firefighter. The championship comprises a ten-event program conducted over two days and showcases operational firefighting skills of firefighters from across the State.