

**Question on Notice No. 961, Tuesday, 31 August 2004**

**Mr MICHAEL CHOI** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins)  
With reference to Fire Awareness Week –

Will he outline what activities were available in the electorate of Capalaba to increase the awareness of the danger of fire in our community?

**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.

The objectives of the Fire Awareness Week (FAW) was to target fire safety in general with a particular influence towards the theme of 'What have you got to lose?' Firefighters targeted the Redland Shire community in the extensive iZone areas conducting planning meetings prior to and during Fire Awareness Week with the Indigiscapes Centre and the Redland Shire Council's fire management team. The areas targeted were in the established high-risk iZone urban and rural interface expanding residential suburbs, for example, Sheldon, Mt Cotton and the neighbouring areas of Redland Bay. Firefighters and Redland Shire Council Officers worked together and will continue to provide information, printed handout material, showing videos and providing advice to those residents living in the iZone areas for a further month.

The Capalaba Fire Station held an open day providing a sausage sizzle and barbeque on Sunday, 22 September 2004, inviting the public to visit and allowed children to inspect the Fire Pumper Appliance. Firefighters provided information and spoke on a number of subjects including:

- Living Safely in the Izone,
- Assess the Risk; Prevention,
- Preparation and Planning,
- Do I leave or Do I Stay, and
- Plan now and Protect your Property.

Firefighters and Redland Shire Council officers provided the presentations, which were well attended by the local residents. This included the Council's role in wildfire response, working together with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) for the community as a whole.

A fire safety static display was provided at the Birkdale Shopping centre including printed handout material, providing information on the many fire safety issues for the members of the community and programs conducted by the QFRS. The information provided on the many programs included:

- Road Accident Awareness Program,
- Fight Fire Fascination Program,
- Fire Education program targeting grade one school students,
- Senior Fire Education program targeting retirees or people nearing retirement, and
- Operation Safehome, which provides advice and information on home safety issues to owners and occupiers of private residence with Firefighters installing smoke alarms during the Operation Safehome visit. As a result a further sixteen (16) smoke alarms were installed by Firefighters to private residences within the electorate.

Firefighters from Capalaba Fire Station conducted a letterbox drop in the suburbs of Sheldon and Mt Cotton providing 400 information sample bags on fire safety issues including the booklet "Bushfire Safety in Urban Fringe Areas," and other material such as "Operation Safehome."

Hearing Awareness Week ran concurrently with Fire Awareness Week and Firefighters being concerned with increasing number of hearing impaired seniors in our community and with the assistance of 'Home Assist Secure' approached the Redland Shire Council asking for a nominee to receive a 'Visalert Smoke Alarm.' Mrs Dawn Bean a member of the 'Redland Hearing Impaired Support Group' was chosen as the lucky recipient. The 'Visalert Smoke Alarm,' provided by the QFRS was a community fire safety promotion costing \$300.

The Bayside Bulletin ran an article promoting Fire Awareness Week highlighting the need for residents within the electorate to have installed smoke alarms to provide an early warning in the event of a fire allowing the occupants time to evacuate the premises.