

Question on Notice No. 976, Wednesday 1 September 2004

**Mr MULHERIN** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins)- Will he explain how the Automated Data Collection System will assist paramedics to complete patient care records more rapidly and with greater effectiveness?

**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. This \$3.5 million being spent on developing an electronic data capture capability is an example of the Smart State in action. We are reducing red tape so our ambos can spend more time treating patients

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) currently collects information in paper format relating to responses to requests for service.

The implementation of an Automated Data Collection System, utilising state of the art technology, will enable our paramedics to access all supporting information required to complete patient and other response records, from the one source. Paramedics will be able to complete the majority of the record through the selection of data from these lists, and will only be prompted for information that is relevant to the nature of the response.

Auto-propagation of relevant data from the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System will decrease the time currently taken in transposing information received from Communications Centres, and eliminate the possibility for error.

In effect, these measures will decrease the time spent by paramedics in completing case documentation, thereby increasing their availability to attend other cases and further reduce response times. In turn, the expected increased accuracy of data collection will enable the QAS to better manage operations, through the generation of timely reports with a high degree of reliability.

An automated system also holds the potential to assist paramedics with patient care, through links to further reference material such as poisons information and hazardous material databases, and also to transfer accurate information to the receiving hospital department.