

Question on Notice
No. 298
Asked on 10 March 2005

MR ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR CUMMINS) -

QUESTION: 298

Will he outline how the money raised by the Community Ambulance Cover is benefiting ambulance services in the Nudgee Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for the strong support he has shown not only towards the Queensland Ambulance Service, but all sections of Emergency Services within his electorate.

This question gives me the opportunity to highlight the tremendous increases in funding that the Queensland Ambulance Service has received under the Beattie Government.

The Beattie Government's Community Ambulance Cover has delivered the Queensland Ambulance Service a solid and predictable funding base for the first time in its 112 year history. This allows the Queensland Ambulance Service to plan with confidence for the future, knowing that they have such a sound and predicable funding base, as well as providing all Queensland residents with ambulance cover Australia wide.

In addition to the Community Ambulance Cover, the Beattie Government's 2004 election commitments to the Queensland Ambulance Service includes \$35.9 million to recruit 240 extra paramedics plus \$28.6 million for 22 new or refurbished ambulance stations and \$29.5 million for 200 new or refurbished ambulance vehicles. This will provide significant benefits to all Queensland residents, including those who work or reside in the Nudgee Electorate.

Ambulance stations situated in Northgate, Chermside and Sandgate service the Nudgee electorate. Combined, these ambulance stations provide 24-hour ambulance coverage to residents and visitors to the Nudgee electorate.

The Community Ambulance Cover Enhancement Package, for the Nudgee electorate, includes an additional seven paramedics to be distributed between those ambulance stations servicing the area, to assist in further reducing response times and introducing safer rostering procedures for our hardworking paramedics. These new staff will further assist the QAS in maintaining and enhancing an already world class ambulance service within the Nudgee electorate and Queensland as a whole.

As the Member would no doubt agree, Queensland paramedics do a magnificent job protecting the lives of Queenslanders every day and it is important that the Government provides them with the best possible resources to do their job.