

**Question on Notice
No. 306
Asked on Tuesday, 22 March 2005**

Mr McNAMARA asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr CUMMINS) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the drug and volatile substance misuse awareness programs run by the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and, in particular, Project DOV – Will he advise the role that the QAS has in making sure that our young people are supported by this project?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) plays an important role in the prevention of drug and volatile substance misuse, in partnership with Teen Challenge Queensland, through the Drug Overdose Visitation (DOV) program.

By linking people with community services for ongoing help and support via Project Drug Overdose Visitation (DOV) Paramedics now provide more than emergency care.

Project DOV utilises the brief window of opportunity when Paramedics are attending an incident to assist a young person affected by drugs, volatile substances, or attempted suicide, paramedics offer the DOV program to the patient.

The paramedic either refers the young person to a Teen Challenge counsellor by gaining their consent to call the Project DOV (Teen Challenge) hotline, or by providing the patient with a DOV information card. When the hotline is contacted, a Teen Challenge Coordinator contacts the patient within 48 hours of paramedic referral.

Project DOV is currently delivered through all QAS regions at a total of 106 ambulance stations.

In 2003, 176 patients - representing 86 drug overdoses and 90 suicide attempts - consented to be referred to Teen Challenge.

In 2004, 179 patients – representing 90 drug overdoses and 87 suicide attempts – consented to be referred to Teen Challenge.

It is clear that Project DOV is a major support for many young Queenslanders in vulnerable circumstances and has my full, ongoing support.