

**Question on Notice
No. 781
Asked on Wednesday, 25 May 2005**

MS JAN JARRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the opening of the new Calen Ambulance station – What are the benefits of this new facility to the people of Whitsunday?

ANSWER:

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

The location of the new ambulance station in Calen will provide for improved response times to the Calen community, as the majority of the workload occurs on the Bruce Highway.

The Primary objective of the project was to meet the current and projected demand for ambulance service in the Calen area.

The replacement ambulance station accommodates operational staff, including accommodation for the relieving officer, the plant room, which accommodates two large bays for ambulance vehicles and has the provision of 240-volt power connections for these ambulance vehicles. One bay will be used exclusively by the Local Ambulance Committee (LAC) for storage of their equipment.

The cost of construction of the Calen Ambulance Station was \$760,000 which I had the pleasure of officially opening on 15 April 2005.

It is important to note that the Beattie Government has allocated \$4.03 million for an additional 70 paramedics across Queensland who will be employed in 2005-06. This is part of an increase of 240 paramedics state-wide over three years, to help save lives and maintain emergency response times.

Further, this Government will also be providing funding to train 20 paramedics each year for three years, in conjunction with Queensland Health, to expand their role so they may assist remote area nurses and rural doctors with on-going patient care.