

**Question on Notice  
No. 837  
Asked on 26 May 2005**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the excellent Queensland Ambulance Service Baby Capsule Service -

What are the benefits of this program to Brisbane?

ANSWER:

I would like to thank the Member for his interest and ongoing support for emergency services and community safety issues within his Electorate.

The Beattie Government's Community Ambulance Cover has assisted the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) to continue and expand the community safety initiatives that are extended to the Queensland community. One of the very practical and cost effective community safety services provided is the Baby Capsule Hire Service, which is operated by the Queensland Ambulance Service's Community Service Units.

Properly fitted, correctly installed baby capsules saves lives! Baby capsules are especially designed to withstand the forces involved in an accident. Even minor accidents can cause devastating injury to an unrestrained child who comes into sudden contact with the interior of a vehicle.

Children restrained in a correctly installed approved child restraint have an estimated 70% greater chance of survival in an accident. It is crucial that the child restraint is correctly installed and is appropriate to the size and weight of the child. The Queensland Ambulance Service has trained and accredited staff to fit baby capsules and check child restraints to ensure children are both safe and comfortable.

Tragically, the Queensland Ambulance Service still attends accidents where injury to a baby could have been prevented or reduced, with a properly fitted baby capsule manufactured to Australian Standards. Fortunately, most parents and community members ensure their babies are safe in a properly fitted baby capsule. However, some parents have difficulty finding the funds for this vital life-saving piece of equipment.

Commercial baby capsules can be very expensive and thus put them out of reach for new parents facing many expensive additional costs. In keeping with its commitment to first aid safety and injury prevention, through the Baby Capsule Hire Service, the Queensland Ambulance Service offers an affordable alternative to the costly purchase of a baby capsule, which is usually outgrown in just six months, with the hire and fitting of a capsule for a minimal fee (currently \$56.00).

The Queensland Ambulance Service's Brisbane Region, serving approximately 1.8 million people, currently has five baby capsule fitting sites, these being Caboolture, Cleveland, Sunnybank Hills, Wynnum and Spring Hill. Two fitters service these locations and approximately 3,500 baby capsules are installed annually, which approximately 60% (2,100 baby capsules) were fitted at the Spring Hill location.

From 1 July 2004 to 30 April 2005, a total of 2,867 baby capsules have been fitted.