

Question on Notice
No. 838
Asked on Thursday, 26 May 2005

MR WILSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) –

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update of planning by the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet the needs of the growing population in the Ferny Grove Electorate and the wider community in north west Brisbane?

ANSWER:

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

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 QAS to plan with confidence for the future, knowing that they have a sound and predicable funding base, as well as providing all Queensland residents with ambulance cover Australia wide.

As part of a commitment by the Beattie Labor Government, the 05-06 Budget delivers an additional 70 paramedics at a cost of \$4.03 million, as part of 240 paramedics over three years to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times.

The Budget also provides funding to train 20 paramedics each year for three years to expand their role so they may assist remote area nurses and rural doctors with on-going patient care, recognition of the professionalism and changing roles of our workforce and to improve services to rural, isolated and remote communities.

An additional \$7 million is provided for the continued implementation of an Automated Data System to reduce paperwork for on-road staff and to further improve ambulance response times.

The QAS is a dynamic service that utilises its regional resources for best community benefit. This allows the Grovely Ambulance Station to primarily provide service to the Ferny Grove Electorate, with the assistance of resources from the Chermside and Eatons Hills Ambulance Stations. These ambulance stations provide 24-hour ambulance coverage to residents and visitors to the Ferny Grove Electorate.

The Community Ambulance Cover Enhancement Package for the Ferny Grove Electorate will see the Grovely Ambulance Station enhanced with an additional three paramedics over the next two years. There has also been an increase of seven paramedics at the Chermside Ambulance station since March 2005 to assist in further reducing response times and introducing safer rostering procedures for our hardworking paramedics. These new paramedics will further assist the QAS in maintaining and enhancing an already world-class ambulance service within the Ferny Grove Electorate and Queensland as a whole.

Planning is being conducted by the QAS's Brisbane Region to further meet the needs of the growing population in the Ferny Grove Electorate and the wider community in north west Brisbane, including the evaluation of land options for the newly proposed Samford Ambulance Station and continuously reviews its ambulance response to community demand so as to meet the requirements of the community.

In addition to the Community Ambulance Cover Enhancement Package, the Beattie Government's 2004 Election Commitment to the QAS includes \$35.9 million to recruit at least 240 extra paramedics, which will provide significant benefits to all Queensland residents, including those who work or reside in the Ferny Grove Electorate and the wider community of north west Brisbane.