MR MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Community Ambulance Cover charge, commonly recognised as the Ambulance Tax – Will he provide the following information for each year since its introduction (reported separately)
(a) a breakdown by item/program expenditure (reported separately) of how the revenue collected from this charge has been spent and
(b) whether it has been necessary for him to seek supplementary funding as a consequence of the collapse of the Queensland public health system; if so, how much has been sought and where is this funding budgeted to be spent (reported separately by item/program expenditure)?

ANSWER:

(a)   The Community Ambulance Cover is not a tax. Therefore, to refer to it as the 'Ambulance Tax' is misleading. The CAC was a Beattie Government initiative to give all Queenslanders access to the world class ambulance services the QAS offer and to ensure that the QAS can maintain its reputation as a world class organisation.

Since its inception, QAS has invested $311.8 million directly from the CAC to provide pre-hospital ambulance response service to patients who experience sudden illness or injuries requiring emergency medical care, emergency, non-urgent and specialised patient transport services, and related services. Related services include provision of community services, and safety and awareness programs.

(b)   I have not sought supplementary funding as the Queensland Public Health System has not collapsed.

Station	Date	Rural area	Reason for delay
Amity Point	Sep-03	*	Data entry error – brigade listed as second attender actually arrived 37 minutes before the first
Aramac	Sep-03	*	71 kms travelled
Ashgrove	Apr-04	*	Rural arrived first (Mt Nebo)
Augathella	Sep-03	*	125 kms travelled
Babinda	Aug-03	*	Delay due to flat battery in appliance
Baralaba	Jan-04	*	42 kms travelled
Beenleigh	Jan-04		Suspected data entry errors
Blackall	Oct-03	*	110 kms travelled
Blackwater	Jan-04	*	Delayed attendance of auxiliary staff
Boonah	Jul-03	*	32 kms travelled
Boyne-Tannum	Apr-04	*	standby only - did not attend fire
Bramston Beach	Nov-03	*	Delayed arrival - undetermined. 2 appliances turned out, earliest turnout was furthest away - 25 kms
Bundamba	Jul-03	*	Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue
Calliope	Jun-04	*	50 kms travelled
Cannon Hill	Sep-03		Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue
Canungra	Sep-03	*	22kms travelled

Station	Date	Rural area	Reason for delay
Dunwich	Sep-03	*	Pumpers unable to gain access
Dunwich	Nov-03	*	40kms travelled
Halifax	Dec-03	*	Called off enroute after travelling 16 kms
Highfields	Mar-04	*	Difficulty locating incident, 28kms travelled
Inglewood	Apr-04	*	Suspected data entry error
Glenden	Sep-03	*	30kms travelled
Gracemere	Aug-03	*	72 kms travelled
Home Hill	Jul-03	*	45 kms travelled
Harrisvale	Dec-04	*	No reason given - investigation only

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Station	Date	Rural area	Reason for delay
Kenilworth	Sep-03	*	Initial response by Rural
Kurramine Beach	Nov-03	*	Standby - supervise backburning by National Parks
Longreach	Sep-03	*	125 kms travelled
Middlemount	Apr-04	*	Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue
Millmerran	Jun-04	*	26kms travelled

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Station	Date	Rural area	Reason for delay
Texas	Sep-04	*	70kms travelled
Walkerston	Mar-04	*	105kms travelled

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Station	Date	Rural area	Reason for delay
Wooloorin	Jun-04	*	25km travelled

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Station	Date	Rural area	Reason for delay
Anzac Avenue	Nov-04		Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue
Anzac Avenue	Jan-05		Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue
Anzac Avenue	Jun-05		Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue
Baralba	Aug-04	*	74kms travelled
Calliope	Sep-04	*	68kms travelled
Charleville	Feb-05	*	Suspected data entry error - 24 hour time issue