

**Question on Notice
No. 177
Asked on 1 March 2006**

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

QUESTION: What is the Government doing to ensure the provision of world-class ambulance services in southeast Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for his question and congratulate him on the ongoing support for emergency services within his electorate.

The Beattie Government has made a significant ongoing commitment to ensuring that Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities. The Queensland Ambulance Service budget for 2005-06 of \$316.5 million was an increase of 8.5% or \$24.8 million on 2004-05 and will contribute to the ongoing provision of world-class ambulance services throughout Queensland. This is almost double the number included in the last budget for the Borbidge Government in 1998. A record capital expenditure of \$110.4 million for the Department of Emergency Services including \$49 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service in the current budget reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring Queenslanders live in safe and secure communities.

This Government committed \$20 million over three years to fund the enhancement of the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy in Brisbane, making it an international centre of excellence for emergency management training and community safety.

The Beattie Government is committed to maintaining ambulance operational service delivery in South East Queensland by providing:

- \$800,000 to build a new Ambulance Station at Birkdale;
- \$750,000 to build a new Ambulance Station for the Samford Valley;
- \$1.3 million to build a replacement Ambulance Station at Springwood;
- \$2.2 million to build a replacement Ambulance Station in Balmoral;
- \$2 million to build or refurbish the Roma Street Ambulance Station;
- \$1.5 million to build a replacement Ambulance Station at Spring Hill; and
- \$2.53 million to build a new Ambulance Station at Carindale.

Additionally, \$1.5 million has been allocated for a new Ambulance Station at Nerang to meet growing demand and improve response times in a high workload catchment and \$2 million for a replacement station at Ipswich.

The government has allocated more than \$1 million for 10 replacement ambulance vehicles to improve response times in the South East Region.

Funding of \$3.5 million has been allocated to introduce a computer system that will cut out hours of paperwork. The system will be introduced in southeast Queensland, in areas of high demand, to provide a faster and more reliable way for ambulance crews to record patient information.

