

**Question on Notice  
No. 552  
Asked on 20 April 2006**

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

QUESTION:

What training and assistance is available to our rural paramedics?

ANSWER:

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

The Queensland Ambulance Service has developed an In-Service and Continuing Education Strategy with specific benefits for personnel in rural and remote locations.

This strategy places an emphasis on a more self-directed approach that supports and directs staff to relevant training material and information that meets their current and future career needs. The strategy utilises a range of flexible learning methodologies and educational assistance.

The QAS, in partnership with James Cook University and the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, are establishing a Graduate Certificate of Rural and Remote Paramedic Practice for delivery later this year. This initiative will provide an expanded scope of practice to enable paramedics to provide further support to other health care providers.

This supports the Beattie Government's commitment to improve health in rural and remote areas of the state. It will also contribute nationally by raising the profile of the various University Departments of Rural Health across Australia.