

**Question on Notice
No. 806
Asked on 23 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

What is the reason for the decision of the Queensland Ambulance Service to increase the use of morphine for administration in emergency pain relief situations and for phasing out the current use of nitrous oxide as of June 2006?

ANSWER:

The administration of morphine, or equivalent, is considered world's best practice for patients in significant pain. Compared to nitrous oxide the effects of morphine are more predictable and long lasting, ultimately benefiting the patient. This decision by the Queensland Ambulance Service provides the paramedics with the best available pain relief and it reflects practices adopted by all the major Australian ambulance services.