

**Question on Notice
No. 813
Asked on 24 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to our paramedics who are highly skilled professionals—
What training do our student paramedics undertake?

ANSWER:

Student Ambulance Officers undertake a Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance) course, which has been designed to provide the participant with the knowledge and skills to enhance the practice of Paramedic Officers.

Training for these students includes:

- an initial residential of six weeks at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy, School of Ambulance and Paramedic Studies;
- one week of driver training in a variety of settings and weather conditions;
- one week for a Regional induction, followed by an on-the-job competency phase of 12 weeks working with a qualified officer;
- six weeks after the conclusion of the competency achievement phase, students attend a one week Regional Workshop where they undertake assessments for the Unit of Competency HLTAMBCR1A - Deliver basic patient care;
- students then return to the School of Ambulance and Paramedic Studies for two weeks, which is followed by a 12 week competency achievement phase in the region; and
- the remainder of the training occurs at Regional Workshops, with an additional 12 week competency achievement phase over the remaining 18 months of their training.

Students are required to develop a portfolio of evidence including successful completion of all assessment items and attend a final clinical assessment.

Students can take up to 30 months to complete this extensive training.

This program offers a flexible approach to learning, integrating on and off the job requirements to reflect the nature of the elements of learning, and the needs of the participant.

The mode of delivery for this program centres on three teaching strategies:

- classroom;
- flexible, self-paced learning; and
- workplace.

Another option available is the full-time Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) degree course, which was developed by the Queensland University of Technology following extensive consultation with the Queensland Ambulance Service. Students undertake core studies in public health, with the course designed to provide graduates with the skills, knowledge and qualifications to pursue a career as an ambulance paramedic with agencies such as the Queensland Ambulance Service.