

**Question on Notice  
No. 1546  
Asked on 29 October 2008**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to his commitment for the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) to have 505 net additional paramedics on staff by the end of 2008-09, as it did at the end of 2006-07:

- (1) How many paramedics were recruited and trained in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08?
- (2) How many trainee paramedics left QAS in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and how many paramedics trained by QAS left the service after less than two years' service in that period?
- (3) How many paramedics recruited by the QAS in the last four years left in 2006-07 and 2007-08?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) employs approximately 3,200 operational staff and received over 1,200 applications for student paramedic, qualified paramedic and emergency medical dispatcher roles in the last financial year alone. Employment with the QAS is highly sought after and it is important to note the QAS separation rate is 4.37 percent which is well below the Queensland public sector average separation rate of 6.72 percent for the four quarters to June 2008.

The Queensland Government recruited an additional 255 ambulance officers in the 2007-08 financial year. In the 2008-2009 budget, \$18.3 million was allocated to fund 250 additional ambulance officers including paramedics, communications officers, clinical and support staff.

The recruitment and training of paramedics specifically over the last three years comprised the following:

- (1) 150 paramedics were recruited and trained in 2005-06 financial year, 248 paramedics were recruited and trained in 2006-07 financial year, 391 paramedics were recruited in the 2007-2008 financial year including the first cohort of QUT graduates with a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic).
- (2) 14 Student Paramedics left the QAS in 2006-07 and of these, nine had less than two years of service. 31 Student Paramedics left the QAS in 2007-08 and of these, 22 had less than two years of service.
- (3) In the 2006-2007 financial year, there were two Qualified Paramedics who were recruited in the last four years that left the QAS. In the 2007-2008 financial year, there were 11 Qualified Paramedics who were recruited in the last four years that left the QAS.