Question on Notice
No. 396
Asked on 13 March 2008

DR FLEGG asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

Will he provide the most recently available ambulance response times figures for the following suburbs (detailed separately): (a) Moggill, (b) Bellbowrie, (c) Mt Crosby, (d) Karana Downs, (e) Anstead, (f) Brookfield, (g) Upper Brookfield, (h) Kenmore, (i) Chapel Hill, and (j) Indooroopilly, with Category 1 response times listed separately

ANSWER:

Response time figures are only available for Code 1 emergency responses to potentially life threatening incidents.

Please refer to the table below.

Average QAS Response Times for Code 1 first unit on scene by incident address suburb for the 2007-2008 financial year, as at 16 March 2008	
Suburb	**Average Response Time**
Anstead	17 minutes, 20 seconds
Bellbowrie	16 minutes, 18 seconds
Brookfield	14 minutes, 32 seconds
Chapel Hill	11 minutes, 13 seconds
Indooroopilly	9 minutes, 50 seconds
Karana Downs	12 minutes, 8 seconds
Kenmore	10 minutes, 4 seconds
Moggill	16 minutes, 39 seconds
Mount Crosby	17 minutes, 51 seconds
Upper Brookfield	19 minutes, 41 seconds

It should be noted that the Queensland Ambulance Service does not report on Category 1 response times. The terminology Category 1 is an Emergency Department National Triage Scale utilised by Queensland Health.

Queensland Ambulance Stations at Kenmore, Redbank and North Ipswich provide the primary ambulance response to the Moggill Electorate. However, the closest available ambulance vehicle, regardless of its station of origin, is dispatched to a medical emergency.

The response times for individual suburbs are not an accurate indicator of performance when viewed in isolation. This is particularly relevant for the Moggill Electorate, which encompasses high population suburbs within compact geographical areas and large semi-rural suburbs with a relatively low population density.

Statistics show that highly populated areas within the Moggill Electorate receive better response time performances than semi-rural areas such as Pullenvale and Bellbowrie, however, response times are extended to these outer suburbs due to the distance from urban ambulance stations at Kenmore, Redbank and Ipswich.

The Queensland Ambulance Service continues to review its service delivery infrastructure requirements across the state including the Bellbowrie area. New services are prioritised within available resources.

The commencement of the Bellbowrie First Responder Group is scheduled for early May 2008, following the completion of training and equipment issue to the successful applicants.

The Bellbowrie First Responder Group will consist of volunteer community members trained in advanced first aid techniques, including the use of oxygen therapy and automatic external defibrillation.

The Queensland Ambulance Service First Responder Program is ideal for the suburbs of Bellbowrie and Moggill because of their relatively low emergency workload and the enthusiastic community members with good local knowledge of the semi rural area that support the program. This enables patients to receive advanced first aid treatment with support and transport being provided by Queensland Ambulance Service officers.

It is important to remember that the Queensland Ambulance Service's First Responder Program is not a replacement for the professional services provided by Queensland Ambulance Service officers but an important link in the provision of emergency pre-hospital care to the local community.