

**Question on Notice
No. 467
Asked on 15 April 2008**

MR RICKUSS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

What are the guidelines for Emergency Services personnel and equipment assisting community functions for charity and are they required to charge for their services?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) Business Rule B3.1 determines QFRS' responsibility between operational activities, community service obligations and commercial activities.

If an event is deemed to be a non profit event under QFRS Business Rule B3.1 no charge is generally applied, however if the request for QFRS attendance at an event is determined to be providing a service to a business venture, it will be judged as a commercial activity and charged appropriately.

In relation to a request for QFRS attendance at the "*Gatton Street Sprints*" event I can advise that this is an annual car racing event where approximately 135 cars attempt to complete a one kilometre track in under 39 seconds. Entry to the event is around \$15 per person based on information provided on the event website.

QFRS have further advised that the Service was contacted by organisers of the event to provide a standby attendance at the event in case of an incident for approximately 20 hours.

QFRS attempted to confirm with event organisers that the event was non profit and this formal confirmation was never received. In accordance with Business Rule B3.1 it was determined that this was a commercial activity and a quote of approximately \$350 an hour plus GST for one fire appliance with one officer and three firefighters for attendance at the event was provided.

Event organisers then confirmed that no standby from QFRS would be required at the event. However as the location was in close proximity to the Gatton Fire Station this allowed QFRS to provide a prompt response to the event should assistance have been required. Volunteers from five local rural fire brigades attended the two day event.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) provides dedicated ambulance services to special events which is above and beyond the normal ambulance coverage for the community and as a result requires additional resources. For this reason dedicated ambulance services are subject to established charges which are payable by event organisers. In accordance with QAS Special Events Operational Guidelines, an hourly rate is applied based on the number of ambulance officers and how long they were in attendance at the event and any preparation and travel time required.

In relation to a request for QAS attendance at the "*Gatton Street Sprints*", QAS provided an ambulance officer and vehicle for two days at a rate of \$63.14 per hour for their attendance. In accordance with its Special Events Operational Guidelines, the total QAS charge for 21 hours of attendance at the event is \$1,473.27.