

**Question on Notice
No. 544
Asked on 17 April 2008**

MR HORAN MP asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Toowoomba Fire Service, which has the same number of permanent and auxiliary Firefighters as in 1998, despite huge growth in the area, highways and population it services, and as the service urgently needs additional permanent firefighters to provide the firefighting capability at all times and to ensure the safety of the men at a major internal fires – Will he provide these nine positions?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service regularly monitors population growth trends, workloads and response capability.

The number of primary response fire calls for the two Toowoomba Fire Stations has remained consistent over the last ten years. The Toowoomba area operational response capability has been improving as a direct result of more effective fire appliances, additional equipment, increased focus on training and skill maintenance, implementation of a number of community education initiatives and increased fire communications capability.

As the Honourable Member knows, the average response times to structural fires from Toowoomba's Kitchener Street and Anzac Avenue stations are well below the target response time of 14 minutes. The response times were 6 minutes 49 seconds and 7 minutes 2 seconds respectively for 2006-07.

In 1998, to which the Honourable Member refers, the response times were much slower – 7 minutes 10 seconds from Kitchener Street station and 9 minutes 27 seconds from the Anzac Avenue station.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service will continue to monitor the primary responses figures for the Toowoomba Fire Stations and is committed to providing a safer Queensland and to a Zero Harm environment for its staff of men and women.