

Question on Notice
No. 610
Asked on 29 April 2008

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)

QUESTION:

With reference to increasing demand on our fire services—
Will he advise whether new firefighters have been trained to meet this challenge?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is currently training a record number of new firefighters in support of fire service delivery across the state.

In 2008, it is anticipated that the Fire Service will train over 160 recruit firefighters and run five recruit training courses at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island.

As the Honourable Member would be aware, the Fire Service provides dynamic career opportunities for people with a variety of skills and backgrounds. A career as a firefighter is a rewarding and challenging one. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service firefighter recruitment program is highly competitive and the Service is always seeking high quality applicants for a number of positions across Queensland.

The recruitment program is aimed at selecting the most suitable people from Queensland's diverse communities and being a continuous recruitment process this allows applicants to submit and update their applications all year round. More information can be found online at:

<http://www.fire.qld.gov.au/employment/recruitment.asp>

Once accepted into the program, recruit firefighters undertake a 16 week course to provide them with the necessary skills to commence operations such as responding to a wide range of fire and rescue incidents. Recruit firefighters, on completion of their training, will also take up important community safety education and building fire safety roles within the community.

Queenslanders can be assured that the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is focused on recruiting highly skilled staff for its front-line workforce and also the long term training investment to maintain their vital skills. All recruit firefighters will experience continuous training and ongoing study as part of their career as a firefighter. Commencing at initial appointment and continuing throughout their career, firefighters undertake a number of training programs, activities and assessments, to ensure their skills remain at the highest level.