

**Question on Notice  
No. 1238  
Asked on Tuesday 15 September 2009.**

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

QUESTION:

How many Queensland Ambulance officers lodged Workcover claims in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (reported by Workcover claim incident type and year) and how many claims lodged involved exposure to blood or bodily fluids (reported by year)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Question. The Department of Community Safety has a strong commitment to workplace health and safety and does not accept that any employee, volunteer or contractor of the Department should be injured at work.

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) officers are required to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which significantly reduces the risk of actual exposure to blood/body fluid borne disease.

The number of Workcover Queensland claims lodged by QAS officers decreased by approximately 27 per cent - from 597 in 2007-2008 to 434 in 2008-2009.

Further, the number of claims related to exposure or potential exposure to blood and/or bodily fluids fell by approximately 70 per cent, from 44 in 2007-2008 to 13 in 2008-2009.

This downward trend continues in the 2009-2010 financial year (at 30 August 2009) with 48 QAS officers lodging claims with Workcover Queensland. Three of these were related to exposure or potential exposure to blood and/or bodily fluids.