

**Question on Notice  
No. 1252  
Asked on Wednesday 16 September 2009**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if all ambulances operating in Toowoomba are equipped with cardiac defibrillators and if all defibrillators are checked and fully operational?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is committed to supporting the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), so it can continue to deliver world class services to communities across Queensland.

We have provided funding in the past three budgets for 550 additional ambulance professionals, and we are equipping them to do the job.

In the 2009-10 financial year, our Government provided the QAS with a record operating budget of \$494.6 million, an increase on last year's budget of \$38.9 million or 8.5%.

Included in this record budget is \$3.5 million for an additional 50 ambulance officers, which was on top of an additional 253 ambulance officers in the 2008-09 financial year.

As part of this record operating budget for QAS, there is \$19.3 million funding to commence or complete work on two new ambulance stations, at Ashgrove/The Gap and Springfield and 18 replacement, or redeveloped QAS facilities; \$1.9 million to complete work on the Palm Island replacement ambulance station; \$20.9 million for 150 new ambulance vehicles; \$6.7 million for continued improvement in operational and communication and information technology equipment (which includes defibrillators) across the State.

There is also an allocation of \$3.4 million for strategic land purchases, including the acquisition of land at Ashgrove/The Gap; \$2.7 million for the QAS Operational Strategic Information Management Initiative; \$3.8 million for minor capital works and \$2.6 million for other information systems development.

Capital expenditure on defibrillators for the 2008-09 financial year was \$2.291 million and included the purchase of 110 LifePak 12 defibrillators. In the 2009-10 financial year, the QAS has ordered a further 104 LifePak 12 defibrillators at a cost of \$2.041 million.

All ambulances operating in Toowoomba are equipped with defibrillators which are routinely checked at the commencement of each shift to ensure they are fully operational.

An approved service agent also undertakes checking of all defibrillators every six months. If a fault is detected and a defibrillator is removed from service, a replacement or spare machine is substituted in its place.