

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1501**  
**Asked on 8 October 2009**

MR EMERSON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

What was the total number of call outs for Queensland Ambulance officers in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (to date) for suspected drug overdose/drug affected persons (reported by year and region) and how many of these call outs resulted in the patient being transported to a hospital (reported by year and region)?

ANSWER:

Demand for Queensland Ambulance services continues to grow. The Bligh Government recognises the trend and has supported the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) with a record budget allocation of \$494.6 million in 2009-2010.

In the 2008-09 financial year, the QAS provided services in response to 744,004 incidents across Queensland - an increase of 2.76 percent over the previous year.

Thousands of these responses were to people affected by drug overdoses.

The following information has been obtained from the QAS electronic Ambulance Report Forms.

QAS Northern region attended 653 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 561 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), QAS Northern region had attended 164 incidents with 139 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS Central region attended 651 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09 with 542 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), QAS Central region attended 170 incidents with 146 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS South Western region attended 380 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09 with 328 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), QAS South Western region attended 67 incidents with 56 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS North Coast region attended 983 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09 with 814 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), the QAS North Coast region attended 219 incidents with 189 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS Brisbane region attended 3,023 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09 with 2,509 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), the QAS Brisbane region attended 752 incidents with 646 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS South Eastern region attended 1,723 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09 with 1,468 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), QAS South Eastern region attended 390 incidents with 344 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS Far Northern region attended 559 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09 with 464 resulting in transport to hospital. In 2009-10 (as at 30 September 2009), QAS Far Northern region attended 114 incidents with 90 resulting in transport to hospital.