

**Question on Notice
No. 1829
Asked on 12 November 2009**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice Nos. 1842 of 2008 and 1501 of 2009 indicating a 30 per cent decline in the total number of callouts for drug overdose/drug affected persons-

- (1) Is this large decline due to change between 2007-08 and 2008-09 in the method of determining a patient's condition or change in the method of completing the QAS electronic ambulance report forms?
- (2) If so, will the Minister resupply the 2008-09 statistics in the same format as the answer to Question on Notice No. 1501 of 2009, but constructed and compiled using the same methodology as the 2007-08 statistics?

ANSWER:

There has been no change to the assessment and treatment protocols of paramedics in delivering emergency care to patients throughout communities in Queensland. Nor has there been any change in the procedural requirements for paramedics to accurately record all assessment and treatment of patients details in the electronic ambulance report form.

The answers to both Questions on Notice (1842-2009 and 1501-2009) were sourced from the electronic ambulance report form database.

The data provided for QON 1842 - 2008 contained all drug overdose/drug affected persons recorded by paramedics including those cases where the substance was not identified. QON 1501 - 2009 provided a slightly different data set, which contained only the number of drug overdose/drug affected persons where the particular substance was in fact identified and recorded by paramedics at the scene of the incident. The difference is that in response to QON 1501 - 2009 the data excluded those cases where the substance was not identified.

This difference is not as a result of any change in the method of determining a patient's condition or change in the method of completing QAS electronic Ambulance Report Form, but rather a difference in the data set provided.

The following information will enable a direct comparison with data provided for previous years.

QAS Northern region attended 847 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 717 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS Central region attended 847 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 698 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS South Western region attended 571 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 487 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS North Coast region attended 1498 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 1222 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS Brisbane region attended 4569 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 3729 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS South Eastern region attended 2738 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 2324 resulting in transport to hospital.

QAS Far Northern region attended 725 incidents relating to drug overdose/drug affected persons in 2008-09, with 584 resulting in transport to hospital.