

Question on Notice
No. 193
Asked on 23 April 2009

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

QUESTION:

How many former Queensland Ambulance paramedics have requested to rejoin the Queensland Ambulance Service and how many were

- (a) allowed and
- (b) not allowed and why?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is committed to increasing frontline ambulance staff. By 30 June 2009, we will have increased ambulance front-line staff by at least 867 officers since 1 July 2004.

Queensland has the best ratio of ambulance operatives per person in the country with the state ratio at 1:1527 and the Australian ratio at 1:2079.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) received over 1,200 applications for student paramedic, qualified paramedics and emergency medical dispatcher roles in the 2007-2008 financial year.

The QAS has recorded the second lowest staff attrition rates for any jurisdiction in Australia. In 2007-2008 the rate of attrition was 4.2% compared with 4.9% nationally and over 6% for the Queensland Public Service.

Interest in becoming a paramedic or an emergency medical dispatcher has increased. In the current economic climate, a career in the QAS will be even more attractive as it brings personal rewards, assists the community and is secure permanent employment.

Between 1 July 2007 - 29 April 2009, the Queensland Ambulance Service processed 20 applications from former paramedics wishing to rejoin the Service. Nine former paramedics have re-commenced permanent employment with QAS and eight former paramedics are currently at various stages of the recruitment process and three former paramedics did not meet the selection requirements.