

**Question on Notice
No. 433
Asked on 11 March 2010**

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

QUESTION:

With reference student paramedics—

- (1) How many student paramedics were recruited and trained in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date (reported separately)?
- (2) Of those identified in (1) how many have left the service (reported separately by year of recruitment)?
- (3) Of those identified in (2), how many resigned and how many were dismissed (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

When it comes to supporting our emergency services, the Bligh Government has a proud record. We have provided a record budget of \$494.6 million to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) in 2009-10; funded the recruitment of 555 new ambulance officers in the past three years, and provided them with the highest standard of training and the latest state of the art equipment and vehicles to do their job.

The QAS underwent an audit process in 2007 which examined how the service was performing. The outcome of the audit focused the QAS on front-line service delivery and the need to increase the number of operational ambulance officers.

Queensland now has the best ratio of ambulance operatives per person in the country. Since the audit the proportion of operational staff in the QAS has increased by 5.2 percentage points from 77.6 per cent to 82.8 per cent in 2008-2009. This is above the national rate of 82.1 per cent published in the latest Report on Government Services 2010.

The QAS also has the highest rate of student paramedics per head of population. Our student paramedics are well-trained and resourced with some of the most state-of-the-art equipment to ensure the QAS continues to provide a world-class ambulance service now and into the future.

The data provided below demonstrates there has been a downward trend in separations from the QAS, coupled with a significant increase in the recruitment of additional ambulance officers which can be attributed to the Government's commitment to delivering 555 new ambulance officers over the past three years

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) recruited and trained 213 student paramedics in 2006-07, 280 in 2007-08, 288 in 2008-09 and 159 in 2009-10 (as at 28 February 2010).

In 2006-07, 28 of the abovementioned left QAS. In 2007-08 – 33 left, in 2008-09 – 26 left and in 2009-10 (as at 28 February 2010) – 3 left.

In 2006 -2007 – 27 resigned and one student was dismissed. In 2007-2008 - 33 resigned. In 2008-2009 – 25 resigned and one was medically retired. In 2009-2010 (as at 28 Feb 2010) – 3 resigned.