

**Question on Notice
No. 1078
Asked on 17 June 2011**

MS NELSON-CARR asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the House of the new State Emergency Service (SES) recruitment campaign and outline how members of the community can play a part in their volunteer emergency services?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question regarding the State Emergency Service (SES). I am pleased to advise of the new recruitment campaign to support this longstanding Queensland institution.

While our current SES volunteers do a fantastic job, an aging population and changing work patterns confirms the need to attract more people to the SES.

The thousands of Queenslanders who rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help clean-up following the devastating floods and cyclones at the start of the year are now being encouraged to sign-up with the State Emergency Service.

On 12 June 2011, the Premier launched a new campaign encouraging SES membership, at the Disaster Heroes Awards presentation ceremony in Brisbane. That same day, a thirty second television advertisement campaign commenced and focuses on the fantastic community response by thousands of volunteers who helped strangers and neighbours recover from the recent flood and cyclone disasters.

Tens of thousands of everyday people turned out to help others following the floods and cyclones, working alongside SES volunteers who responded to more than 15,000 jobs. Joining the SES is a great way to continue the generosity and camaraderie seen earlier in the year.

Throughout each and every year, SES volunteers participate in a wide range of disaster and emergency related operations, including:

- support to other agencies such as the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, and the Queensland Ambulance Service;
- community education;
- flood responses and flood boat rescues;

- incident management;
- special rescues (urban search and rescue);
- storm operations;
- road crash Rescue;
- traffic management; and
- vertical rescues of injured bushwalkers.

There are more than 6,800 SES volunteers in Queensland who ensure the community receives the assistance they require in trying times. A benefit for volunteers is the vast range of practical skills they can learn and utilise in their everyday lives.

Every volunteer who joins the Queensland SES receives initial basic safety and induction training, as well as Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation training. Further training is then based on individual preferences and capabilities, and the operational and functional roles of the volunteer's SES Group.

Volunteers who already possess skills in radio operations, abseiling or chainsaw operations can hone and utilise their skills in potentially lifesaving environments.

A strong volunteer base with steady recruitment will ensure the SES continues to provide a world class service to Queenslanders.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the SES should call 132 500 and ask about signing up with a local unit.