

**Question on Notice
No. 92
Asked on 4 March 2014**

MR PITT asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the projected growth in population in Queensland in the coming years and the need for increased staffing to maintain services—

Will the Minister provide details of the projected number of ambulance officers and paramedics (all classifications and categories, FTE and head count) to be employed by the department in the current financial year and for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (with each region listed separately for each year)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Mulgrave for his question.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) employs rigorous processes to manage and monitor the establishment of all categories and classifications of employees in Local Ambulance Service Networks (LASNs) across the state.

The QAS employs a sufficient number of paramedics each year to ensure that approved staffing levels are maintained, inclusive of additional staffing enhancements. It should be noted that enhancements to approved staffing levels are announced as part of the budget cycle each financial year. As such, QAS is only able to advise of staffing level enhancements for the current 2013-14 financial year.

The workforce planning model used by QAS analyses the rates of attrition and staff movements; however, the exact locations of these movements are not predictable until it actually occurs. Therefore, workforce planning is undertaken at a state-wide level to ensure maximum paramedic capacity is maintained across the state.

In the 2013-14 financial year, QAS was budgeted for 60 additional Ambulance Operative roles. This increases the number of actual paid full time equivalent (FTE) Ambulance Operative employees from 3,346 FTE as at 30 June 2013 to a target of 3,406 FTE as at 30 June 2014. Ambulance Operative roles include patient transport officers, students and base level ambulance officers, qualified ambulance officers, clinical officers and communications operatives. QAS has a proactive workforce recruitment strategy which targets officers to cover both attrition and movements of staff and also reach the target of 60 additional Ambulance Operatives.

The attached table identifies the actual paid FTE Ambulance Operative employees as at 30 June 2013 as reported in the Report on Government Services 2014 (ROGS) broken down by LASN.

The 60 additional Ambulance Operative positions recruited in the 2013-14 financial year have been allocated to further supplement resources across the Cairns and Hinterland, Townsville, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Darling Downs, Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Metro North and Gold Coast LASNs.

Queensland Ambulance Service staffing levels for the 2014-15 financial year will be announced in the 2014-15 budget cycle.

ATTACHMENT

30 June 2013 ROGS Ambulance Operative FTE by Local Ambulance Service Network

| ROGS Function | Local Ambulance Service Network | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Grand Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| | Cape York | Cairns and Hinterland | North West | Townsville | Mackay | Central West | Central QLD | Wide Bay | South West | Darling Downs | Sunshine Coast | West Moreton | Metro North | Metro South | Gold Coast | Operations Centre | Other | |
| AO - Officer In Charge | 9 | 28 | 10 | 23 | 25 | 7 | 35 | 24 | 11 | 36.9 | 21 | 17 | 37.53 | 38 | 21 | 4 | 11* | 358.43 |
| AO - Paramedic | 15.06 | 170.84 | 30.64 | 160.86 | 100.02 | 10 | 144 | 124.99 | 20 | 165.52 | 238.88 | 127.96 | 417.3 | 448.13 | 204.81 | | | 2379.01 |
| AO - Patient Transport | | 11.05 | | 9.51 | 3.4 | | 9 | 9.8 | | 16 | 17.28 | 10.63 | 40.18 | 38.33 | 14.21 | | | 179.39 |
| AOCL - Medical Officer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| AOCO - Emergency Medical Calltaker | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | 5 |
| AOCO - Emergency Medical Dispatchers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 352.19 | | 352.19 |
| AOCO - Other | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 3.25 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 11.25 |
| AOCO - Other Clinical | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 17 | | 17 |
| AOCO - Supervisors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 42.95 | | 42.95 |
| Grand Total | 24.06 | 211.89 | 40.64 | 193.37 | 128.42 | 17 | 188 | 158.79 | 31 | 218.42 | 280.41 | 156.59 | 495.01 | 525.46 | 242.02 | 423.14 | 12 | 3346.22 |

*Includes Senior Operations Supervisors within the Patient Safety Distribution and State Operations Support Units.