

Question on Notice

No. 1066

Asked on 4 September 2018

MR D LAST asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to occasions in regional Queensland where members of the public are asked to drive a Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) vehicle in the event of an emergency—

Will the Minister advise what measures are in place to ensure these well-meaning Queenslanders are not held personally liable for any incidents that may occur while they are operating a QAS vehicle?

ANSWER

In emergency situations, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) officers may request assistance from members of the public. Particularly in regional Queensland, this may include a request to drive a QAS vehicle.

The *Ambulance Service Act 1991* gives certain powers to authorised officers of the QAS in certain circumstances. This includes the power to take reasonable measures to protect persons from danger associated with an emergency situation, to protect persons trapped in a vehicle or otherwise endangered and to protect themselves, other officers or other persons from danger or assault. The Act further states that an authorised officer may request any person to take all reasonable measures to assist the authorised officer.

Under the Act, an indemnity is provided to a member of the public against all actions, proceedings and claims made under the relevant section of the Act.