

Question on Notice

No. 820

Asked on 14 June 2018

DR M ROBINSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of individual addresses in the Cleveland area that are black listed on the Queensland Ambulance Service alert system, (b) the type of incidents that have led to the black listings and (c) the measures being put in place to protect on duty paramedics?

ANSWER

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) does not blacklist or class any location as a “no-go” zone.

The Palaszczuk Government considers any assault on a Queensland paramedic, whether physical or verbal, to be unacceptable.

The QAS works closely with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and encourages the reporting of all assaults for investigation.

In December 2015, the Palaszczuk Government asked the QAS to work with United Voice Queensland to establish an Occupational Violence Taskforce, which became the Paramedic Safety Taskforce (the Taskforce) in January 2016. The purpose of the Taskforce was to review current strategies, systems and processes in minimising the risk of occupational violence to QAS personnel, and to identify opportunities for improvement that can be implemented.

In April 2016, the Paramedic Safety Taskforce released its final report, which contained 15 recommendations aimed at reducing the risk of occupational violence to paramedics. All 15 of these recommendations have now been implemented under the guidance of the Paramedic Safety Implementation Oversight Committee.

The recommendations included the introduction of new duress monitoring technology, a revised tactical de-escalation and safety program, and the introduction of chemical sedation for aggressive or violent patients.

Specifically, measures like the duress monitoring systems in all ambulances across the State, and enhancements to the analogue radio network to include duress alarm capability have been put in place to protect on duty paramedics.

The safety measures that have been put in place allow paramedics the ability to quickly alert their colleagues of a potentially dangerous situation and seek urgent assistance.

The QAS continues to review any instance of occupational violence, and identify further strategies to improve paramedic safety, through bi-monthly meetings of the QAS Paramedic Management Safety Committee.

The Queensland Government remains committed to reducing the risk of harm that paramedics face as they carry out their daily duties.