Queensland Ambulance Service

Our Services

To enhance community and individual safety by providing services that promote and strengthen the health and wellbeing of the community and individuals.

Number of emergency and non-emergency responses provided to communities in Queensland and their visitors for 2005/2006 financial year:

- Emergency – 536,227
- Non-emergency – 210,048

(Statistics from Department of Emergency Services 2005 – 06 Annual Report)
QAS Road Safety Initiatives

- Community programs
  - Baby Capsule Hire Service
  - Child Restraint Fitting Service
- Vehicles and Equipment
- The Australian Centre for Prehospital Research
  - Queensland Trauma Plan
  - Prehospital injuries & fatalities from motorcycle crashes
  - Alcohol related injury
  - Prevalence of alcohol and drugs in the ED
- Paramedic Training
- CARRS-Q Rural and Remote Road Safety study

Community Programs

Queensland Ambulance Service contributes to the reduction of preventable injuries to Queensland infants and children by providing:

- baby capsule hire service
- safety checks of privately owned restraint installations
Growing trend in capsule fittings

Queensland Ambulance Service
Baby Capsule Hires
2003 - 2007

Indigenous involvement

Indigenous Child Restraints Project

- Indigenous-specific communications campaign designed to increase awareness of the use of baby capsules and child restraints within the Indigenous community in SE Queensland.

- Established a redesigned community-based Baby Capsule Hire Service at Inala.

- 3 baby capsule fitters trained.

- Baby Capsule Hire Service continues to operate at Indigenous community based centres throughout Brisbane.
QAS Actively promotes...

- Obtaining a baby capsule/child restraint
- Encouraging correct fitting
- Use of child restraint guide based on the child’s age and weight

Vehicles & Equipment

- The State Equipment & Vehicle Committee:
  - The appropriateness of vehicle types for ambulance requirements
  - Patient safety in ambulances: stretcher, seat restraints and equipment inside the vehicle.
  - Visibility and lighting of vehicles and uniforms
  - Continual evaluation of the appropriateness of Code 1 emergency driving and the implications of this on vehicle design and fit-out.
The Australian Centre for Prehospital Research

- Queensland Trauma Plan 2006
- A State-Wide Analysis of Pre-Hospital Injuries and Fatalities Resulting From Motorcycle Crashes in Queensland 2005
- Alcohol related injury 2005/06
- Prevalence of Alcohol and Drugs in the ED 2005/06

The Queensland Trauma Plan

- Prompted by state & national comparisons in injury rates 1994-98. Qld significantly higher population mortality rates, particularly in:
  - Road traffic accidents
  - Paediatric injury
  - Suicide
  - Falls in 65+
- Transport accidents comprise 28% of injuries in Qld
- Motor vehicle accidents consistently result in the most severe injuries
The Queensland Trauma Plan

- National Health Priority Targets:
  - Injury mortality target = 33.6 deaths per 100,000
  - At commencement of project (1998), Qld injury mortality = 44.9 deaths per 100,000

- Study findings will contribute to transport, road safety and health policy to:
  - Inform road safety and injury prevention strategies
  - Reduce injury mortality in Queensland

Pre-Hospital injuries & fatalities from Motorcycle RTC's

- Population based retrospective analysis of all crashes involving a motorcycle 1999 – 2003, attended by QAS
- Direct comparison with QAS data and official statistics (QPS and hospital data)
- Key finding:
  - Official statistics underestimate by HALF the true proportion of motorcycle related crashes that occur in Qld and therefore the burden of injury
- The study identified risk factors to inform road safety initiatives and effective pre-hospital treatment practices
Alcohol related injury

- Examined the impact of alcohol / drug use and risk taking behaviour on injury
- 593 patients presenting with injuries at Gold Coast ED in one year 2000-2001 (quarterly data collection; weekends only; interview and medical records)
- RTC third most common injury (16.6%)

Prevalence of Alcohol and Drugs in the ED

- In conjunction with Crime & Misconduct Commission (CMC) and Qld Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC), University of Qld
- Cross sectional study of patients presenting at Gold Coast ED over 14 day period October 2005
- Of all injured patients, 13% injured through RTC
- Analyses of associations between alcohol/drug use, mental health and RTC are underway
CARRS-Q Rural & Remote Road Safety Collaborative Study

Research & intervention to reduce economic, medical and social costs of road crashes in North Queensland

- Major collaborators:
  - Centre for Accident Research & Road Safety
  - James Cook University
  - QAS - Northern Region
  - Major regional hospitals

- Study design:
  - 3 year study
  - Investigating all rural & remote road crashes (fatality or serious injury)
  - QAS paramedics: part of the research team interviewing drivers about their trip, driving, and ideas about road safety.

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Paramedic Training

- Rigorous training and assessment on driving ability under a variety of driving conditions before being placed in the on-road operational environment.

- Regular exercises with other emergency agencies (including police) to train for real-life incidents.

- Comprehensive protocols for Code 1 driving & on-scene safety procedures at RTC's.
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