



## Pair commended for CPR

Two women were awarded Ambulance Commissioner's Commendations recently for resuscitating a man during a plane flight. Paul Harvey had collapsed on a Virgin Blue flight to Brisbane in June 2005 when registered nurse Catherine Humphries and crew member Emma Cross stepped in to perform CPR, still 20 minutes away from landing. Airport firefighters met the plane on landing and defibrillated Paul twice before paramedics arrived to stabilise him. Pictured are QAS Commissioner Jim Higgins, Catherine Humphries, Paul Harvey and Emma Cross.

## QAS must strive to meet increased demand



The Christmas and New Year period is always a busy time for the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). Ambulance work continues regardless of holiday periods, however, this does not distract from the sacrifice of operational staff and their families and I would like to offer my thanks to staff who worked over this time.

2006 will undoubtedly be another challenging year and I am confident it will see further improvements in clinical excellence and greater advances in the professionalism of paramedics and ambulance staff. The QAS faces increased demand for our services as the Queensland population – now exceeding four million people – continues to grow and age. This year we will keep developing the capacity of the QAS to meet this increased demand so we continue to meet the high expectations of the community. We now have in place a new Enterprise Partnership Agreement that will result in better employment

conditions for operational staff and a boost in staff numbers over the next three years. Importantly, it will ensure the ambulance service is in a position to meet future service demand while safeguarding the well being of staff. Other exciting developments include the rollout of new and improved technologies as well as a number of clinical packages, such as major advances in the Perfusion Management Package, 12-Lead ECG and the treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarctions. Last month the first of the e-ARF tough books were introduced into service. Their progressive introduction throughout

the State in 2006 will spell the end of the current paper-based system used by paramedics. This will lead to better reporting and importantly, a reduction in the time it takes for paramedics to process case information. On a final note I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Fiona McKersie to the department as Acting Director-General. I look forward to working with Fiona as the QAS and the department continue to build upon our capacity to deliver high quality ambulance services to the Queensland community.

*Jim Higgins ASM  
QAS Commissioner*