1. On 17 September 2007, the Queensland Government announced that a comprehensive audit of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) would be undertaken. This decision was made due to concerns about the pressures on the QAS associated with escalating demand for ambulance services and the need to ensure that as many resources as possible were being directed to front line service delivery.
2. The Audit was completed in December 2007 and made 21 recommendations incorporating 46 initiatives. Two recommendations, *Government consider introducing a payment for ambulance services* and *that non-emergency ambulance transport be made contestable,* were not supported by the Government. As a result there were a total of 19 recommendations and 44 initiatives to be implemented.
3. The QAS, with the assistance of Queensland Health and Queensland Treasury, has now successfully completed implementation of all but four initiatives, with corresponding improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of ambulance service delivery.
4. Of the remaining initiatives, application of a growth factor to the QAS budget will be implemented as part of the 2010-11 budget process; and updates regarding improved processes for managing patient flow will be managed by Queensland Health as part of its response to the Auditor-General on his *Report to Parliament no. 5 for 2009: Management of patient flow through Queensland hospitals.*
5. A further two initiatives will not be progressed. The option to consider organisationally integrating the QAS with Queensland Health is unnecessary at this stage as the QAS is well placed to continue to strengthen long term policy initiatives which will combine to result in service delivery efficiencies and positive health outcomes for patients. The option to introduce an expanded scope of role for paramedics has been assessed and it is considered that it would not return additional benefits sufficient to compensate for the cost of implementation.
6. Cabinet noted the final report on the implementation of recommendations of the Queensland Ambulance Service Audit 2007.
7. Cabinet approved that two QAS audit recommendations not be progressed.
8. *Attachments*
* Nil.