

**Question on Notice
No. 393
Asked on 08 March 2007**

**MRS PRATT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR PURCELL)—
QUESTION:**

With reference to non-emergency ambulance transport and transfer of patients, which many people fail to be able to access due to being deemed ineligible—

- (1) How many Nanango Electorate residents accessed these services in the past five years, per year?
- (2) What were the range of medical conditions which made them eligible?
- (3) To what towns' hospital and medical services were they transported?
- (4) What is the percentage per population in the various towns in the Nanango Electorate?

ANSWER:

1. The table outlines the number of ambulance transports (Code 3 and Code 4 cases) provided by Queensland Ambulance Service Officers from the Kingaroy, Nanango, Yarraman, Murgon, Toogoolawah, Woodford, Lowood and Kilcoy areas during the period from 2003 to 10 April 2007:

Case Code	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Code 3	2112	2281	2443	1913	8749
Code 4	1495	2172	2206	1573	7446
Total Non-urgent	3607	4453	4649	3486	16195

The current database commenced operation on 1 July 2003. Data prior to that time is incompatible with the format now reported and many hours of work would be required to provide the information. The table represents total cases attended, including where a Nanango Electorate resident has used the service for multiple transports. It also includes attendance to non-Nanango Electorate residents.

2. Queensland Ambulance Service transports those patients, who in the opinion of a medical practitioner are eligible for non-emergency ambulance transport. Accordingly, the medical practitioner will complete a 'Medically Authorised Ambulance Transport Form to authorise such transport.

The guidelines for non-urgent medically authorised ambulance transport are that the patient will be medically unsuitable for public or private transport and will normally require stretcher transport; and/or require active management or monitoring in transit; and/or be a patient whose condition would cause them to be either gravely embarrassed or unacceptable to other people in public transport (e.g. incontinence of bladder or bowel, gross deformity or disfigurement); and/or have intellectual disabilities causing behavioural problems resulting in socially unacceptable behaviour and requiring the constant assistance of another person for travel on public transport; and/or any temporary disability consistent with one of the categories above for the period of the disability.

The guidelines clearly outline that the medical practitioner suggest using alternative transport options such as relatives, friends, taxi, public transport, community/volunteer groups, for patients that do not meet the transport criteria.

3. Patients from the Nanango electorate and surrounding areas are routinely transported to hospitals and medical centres in the Kingaroy, Toowoomba and Brisbane areas.

4. The Queensland Ambulance Service does not currently have the capacity to report this information.