

**Question on Notice  
No. 59  
Asked on 13 February 2014**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the answer given by Minister Emerson to Question on Notice No. 849 of 2013 and the use of the company National Patient Transport in a patient transport trial—

- (1) Did the government ensure National Patient Transport had registered all the vehicles as ambulances through the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Queensland as required prior to commencement of the trial?
- (2) What was the process used to select the Victorian-based National Patient Transport, chaired by former NSW Liberal Health Minister Peter Collins, as the provider for the trial?
- (3) What was the minimum level of training required before staff participating in the trial were able to transport patients?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Honourable Member for South Brisbane for her question.

In relation to the Member's questions, I have been advised as follows:

- (1) All vehicles used by National Patient Transport (NPT) during the Proof of Concept (POC) trial were registered as Public Passenger Service vehicles. The Proof of Concept trial did not require ambulance vehicles.
- (2) Following an internal review of Metro South Health (MSH) operations, specifically addressing existing patient transfer policies and procedures, MSH executives had identified feasible financial and operational benefits that may be sought through an alternative means of patient transfer services. NPT, a leading Victorian based healthcare transport service provider was identified as having the capability to deliver services in line with MSH service level requirements. Through discussions between MSH and NPT, it was agreed to undergo a POC exercise for a period of three months. The primary focus of the POC was to monitor and evaluate the integration of non-urgent, non-ambulance stretcher transport with existing operations.
- (3) Each vehicle had two staff, an Ambulance Transport Attendant and a Patient Transport Officer. The minimum qualification for the Ambulance Transport Attendant was a Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance), completion of a minimum of 400 hours operational stretcher experience under the direct supervision of a clinical instructor, and successful completion of a clinical skills assessment. The minimum qualification for the Patient Transport Officer was a Certificate III in Non-Emergency Patient Transport.