

Question on Notice

No. 1411

Asked on 17 October 2018

MR S ANDREW asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to the tragic death of a toddler in the Pioneer Valley, which identified GPS issues concerning access to certain areas, resulting in the paramedics losing valuable time—

Will the Minister advise if the State Government will conduct a review and inquiry to ensure emergency services have current and accurate GPS systems to service people in dire need, and in life and death circumstances?

ANSWER

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) attended a tragic incident at Septimus in late September 2018, where a two year old boy was struck by a vehicle and died. The QAS had an available paramedic nearby in Finch Hatton who was immediately dispatched along with a volunteer driver. The Finch Hatton paramedic and volunteer driver proceeded directly and without delay to the scene.

The response to the scene was approximately 21 minutes and upon arrival, rapid treatment of the patient was undertaken. A second single officer Critical Care Paramedic was dispatched from Mackay and was slightly delayed due to a directional error. This delay had no impact on the outcome for the patient. A third crew, also from Mackay, was stood down prior to arrival at the scene.

The QAS utilises commercially available global positioning system navigation systems in ambulances throughout Queensland. In addition, the current version of the relevant UBD map books; the Regional Council Maps; and for some areas Rural Stations – The Atlas of Queensland and Northern Territory Pastoral Stations are carried in ambulances.

In the Mackay Local Ambulance Service Network (servicing the Pioneer Valley area), the QAS utilises both Garmin and Hema mapping devices, with Garmin devices updated annually and Hema devices updated bi-annually. The Mackay Regional Council map books are updated bi-annually with the last update being printed in June 2018.

Mapping within the Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch system is updated quarterly to maintain the currency of data, which includes regular updates from local councils to the data suppliers used in Queensland.

The QAS continues to invest in enhancing and implementing new technologies to improve responses to Triple Zero (000) calls as technology becomes available.