

Question on Notice

No. 1195

Asked on 22 August 2019

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise when the Queensland Ambulance Service practice of dispatching 'one-up' ambulance crews, especially in outer regional areas, will be halted and additional staff rostered to share the driving and provide manual handling assistance?

ANSWER

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) operates a diverse resourcing model with staffing allocation based on many factors. The QAS continuously monitors service provision across the State to ensure the most appropriate level of service is provided to all communities. Regular reviews of several factors including, the type of community, the number of incidents per day, age demographic of the community, ingress to and egress from road and air networks, response time profiling, ambulance utilisation rates, risk profiling of the community and available health infrastructure and access to services are undertaken.

Under this model, certain locations have been designated as a Category 2 single officer response to deliver ambulance coverage to the community they service. These Category 2 stations are located in small rural and remote communities.

To ensure the QAS provides appropriate ambulance coverage in communities in more rural and remote areas of the State, the QAS partners with other emergency services and volunteer organisations, as well as ensuring support from neighbouring stations and through aero-medical outreach resources to enable continuity of service provision to assist these paramedics.

In 2018-19, the QAS upgraded five Category 2 stations to Category 3 stations or above. In the 2019-20 financial year, the QAS is upgrading four Category 2 stations.

The QAS is committed to the provision of timely, quality and appropriate, patient focused ambulance services to the people of Queensland, and continuously monitors workloads across the State to ensure the most appropriate level of service is provided to all communities. Allocation of resources are based on identified priorities and subject to funding through the annual State budget process.