

Question on Notice

No. 1064

Asked on 14 September 2021

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to reports three Queensland Emergency Helicopter Network (QEHN) helicopters that are vital to transporting critically unwell patients from rural towns to the Townsville University Hospital have been re directed to assist police in tracking down juvenile offenders—

Will the Minister outline on how many occasions these choppers have been used in the Townsville region to assist police in the last 12 months?

ANSWER

I am advised the emergency helicopter tasking principles are outlined in the Queensland Emergency Helicopter Network Tasking Guideline. Tasks are coordinated by Retrieval Services Queensland within Queensland Health.

I am further advised that competing demand for helicopter support is resolved by a collaborative approach between requesting agencies with overt search and rescue operations and aeromedical patient tasks prioritised over other tasks. In the event competing demand for an emergency helicopter is not resolved, a tiered conflict resolution process is detailed in the Tasking Guideline. For non-disaster related requests that are not resolved through the conflict resolution process, the State Medical Director, Retrieval Services Queensland has the authority to resolve the conflict.

Questions relating to the operations of the Townsville based Queensland Government Air helicopter should be directed to the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.