

Question on Notice

No. 1113

Asked on 25 October 2022

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the number of cases the Queensland Ambulance Service has referred to the Coroner (reported separately by calendar year from 2015)?

ANSWER

I am advised pursuant to the Coroners Act 2003 (Qld) ('the Act'), a person has a duty to report reportable deaths. Under the Act, a death is reportable if:

- The identity of the person is unknown;
- The death appears to be violent or unnatural;
- The death was suspicious;
- The death related to health care;
- A cause of death certificate is not likely to be or has not been issued;
- The death occurred in care; and
- The death occurred in custody, or, in the course of or as a result of police operations.

QAS Referrals to State Coroner

Below table provides the data reported separately by calendar year from 2015.

Year	Total Number
2015	5
2016	0
2017	4
2018	5
2019	5
2020	9
2021	9
2022 as at 28/10/22	9

Due to the nature of the work undertaken by QAS, sadly there are cases where patients pass away and in a small number of cases a referral to the Coroner is required. As noted above, a mandatory referral to the Coroner does not necessarily indicate the death relates to the health care the patient received from QAS.

The QAS attended 924,196 code 1 and 2 triple zero incidents in the 2021/22 financial year, with 9 cases referred to the coroner for various mandatory reporting circumstances listed above; this represents 0.0009% of triple zero code 1 and code 2 calls attended.

There has also been an increase of 191,206 code 1 and code 2 incidents between the 2015/16 and 2021/22 financial years which may account for an increase in mandatory Coroner referrals over time.