

## Question on Notice

No. 1283

Asked on 24 October 2023

**MR M CRANDON** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 824 of 2022 and Queensland Ambulance Service meal penalties— Will the Minister provide (reported separately by calendar month from July 2022 to June 2023, and by Queensland Ambulance Service Region) (a) the total meal penalty hours and (b) the total dollar value of meal penalty hours?

### ANSWER

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is the busiest, and among the fastest, ambulance services in the country, and is the only mainland service that is free – which will never change under the Palaszczuk Government.

Since 2015, we have hired more than 1,300 additional frontline ambulance workers, and recently celebrated that 200 additional paramedics have been hired since the *Putting Patients First* plan was released in June this year.

These investments will help relieve pressure on our hardworking paramedics.

In addition, the new *QAS Certified Agreement 2022* (the Agreement) for operational staff came into effect on 14 March 2023.

The Agreement included a four per cent pay increase for operational staff. It also included a commitment between QAS and unions to collaborate on fatigue management and on-time finishes.

This pay increase took effect from the fortnight ending 23 April 2023. In this same pay period, operational staff also received backpay for the rate increase which was backdated to 1 September 2022. As a result of this backpay a one-off increase in total dollar value is noted in April.

The requested data for meal penalty hours and total dollar value of meal penalty hours from August 2022 to June 2023 is provided below. I refer the Member to the response to Question on Notice No. 825 of 2022 for information relating to July 2022.

Month	Unit	Far Northern	Northern	Central	Sunshine Coast & Darling Downs	Darling Downs & South West	Metro South	Metro North	Gold Coast	Head Office	Total
August 2022	\$	146,890	86,767	81,782	568,173	102,640	1,025,111	1,594,175	650,010	88,082	4,343,631
	Hours	3,419	2,090	1,893	13,032	2,402	23,382	37,171	14,813	2,199	100,400
September 2022	\$	89,868	44,784	79,925	584,010	107,024	1,132,667	1,724,780	612,906	59,789	4,435,752
	Hours	2,111	1,084	1,877	13,473	2,457	25,557	39,799	13,841	1,467	101,666
October 2022	\$	52,628	82,096	64,029	523,783	121,492	1,067,072	1,570,849	658,093	132,263	4,272,305
	Hours	1,230	1,945	1,493	11,774	2,818	24,501	36,863	15,010	3,353	98,987
November 2022	\$	134,821	81,117	110,703	648,157	124,024	1,193,476	1,750,469	628,559	111,962	4,783,289
	Hours	3,081	1,953	2,647	14,620	2,872	27,194	40,541	14,040	2,794	109,742
December 2022	\$	102,922	123,488	70,395	632,854	127,378	1,155,987	1,795,492	678,091	117,595	4,804,201
	Hours	2,378	2,951	1,681	14,399	3,018	26,419	41,462	15,219	2,810	110,337
January 2023	\$	68,932	41,276	76,794	589,623	62,850	1,003,872	1,700,286	668,276	96,832	4,308,739
	Hours	1,593	968	1,840	13,479	1,470	22,929	39,581	15,137	2,441	99,437
February 2023	\$	104,612	51,244	84,307	516,134	74,524	1,090,178	1,821,073	618,237	42,371	4,402,680
	Hours	2,409	1,135	1,917	11,523	1,765	24,936	41,716	13,797	951	100,147
March 2023	\$	109,596	88,336	97,500	625,824	117,203	1,336,738	1,957,500	728,936	(8,050)	5,053,582
	Hours	2,560	2,109	2,292	14,213	2,727	30,638	45,244	16,366	(295)	115,853
April 2023	\$	160,008	152,284	135,798	806,418	139,810	1,540,751	2,405,353	909,136	19,443	6,269,001
	Hours	2,922	2,991	2,509	13,866	2,448	26,815	42,454	15,573	168	109,745
May 2023	\$	96,254	95,292	120,966	639,892	124,660	1,328,674	2,012,061	754,540	8,269	5,180,609
	Hours	2,158	2,188	2,768	13,638	2,817	29,212	44,384	16,283	125	113,573
June 2023	\$	104,348	107,949	136,682	652,701	155,589	1,242,336	2,065,854	758,460	6,992	5,230,912
	Hours	2,322	2,493	3,122	14,198	3,542	27,345	45,222	16,349	122	114,716

Note: Negative amounts in March are shown in brackets and are an adjustment for an overstated position in February.

There is a reduction in hours and dollars for Head office in the second half of the year, this is from the tapering off of COVID dedicated staff.