

Question on Notice

No. 1573

Asked on 29 November 2023

MR L MILLAR ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the impact on ambulance response times and hospital rosters—
Will the Minister advise of any plans for a FTE Paramedic to be based at the Alpha Hospital?

ANSWER

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) operates a number of service delivery models across the state dependent on the demand profile of the area. These range from First Responder Groups in predominantly rural areas, through to Category 5 ambulance stations in metropolitan areas. A hospital-based ambulance (HBA) service operates in Alpha, which is considered the appropriate level of resourcing based on the current requirements of the region.

HBAs provide vital support for the Queensland community in responding to incidents and being first on scene to administer patient care in rural and remote parts of the state, while the QAS and/or other emergency service responders are enroute.

QAS Operations Centres receive Triple Zero (000) calls and highly trained Emergency Medical Dispatchers and Clinical Deployment Supervisors assess and coordinate real time deployment of resources according to a patient's condition. The Alpha HBA is supported by Barcaldine Ambulance Station and aeromedical services are also deployed when appropriate.

Alpha and those areas in the Central West that have volunteer drivers/emergency drivers, are provided with training/orientation by the QAS including vehicle orientation; equipment orientation/training in the use of; assistance with ensuring currency with their Senior First Aid/advanced resuscitation/oxygen therapy qualifications; regular interaction and contact with QAS Staff; and this is in addition to any localised training/education the HHS undertakes within the hospital.

I am advised that the QAS regularly reviews and monitors service delivery across Queensland to ensure the most appropriate level of service is provided for all communities. Consideration is given to a range of issues including the type of community and its demographics, the number of incidents per day, accessibility by road and air networks, and alternative available health infrastructure and access to services. The review informs QAS priorities for the location of ambulance stations and the assignment of paramedics, vehicles, and equipment across the state.

Through these reviews the suitability of the HBA service delivery model at Alpha is regularly assessed, which continues to demonstrate its success.