

Question on Notice

No. 985

Asked on 22 August 2024

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

QUESTION

With reference to a directive being issued at a recent forum in Cairns to Local Ambulance Committees (LACs) that all funding raised would only be allowed to be used on providing training and information programs, which was a shock to attendees, who believe funding for these programs is the responsibility of the State Government— Will the Minister order the withdrawal of this directive and consult with LACs, given local communities expect their financial support to LACs will be spent on the comfort and well-being of staff to make their jobs easier and to encourage them to stay longer in regional communities, and given there was zero consultation with LACs and the danger that the 1,300 plus volunteers will walk away from LACs?

ANSWER

Local Ambulance Committees (LACs) provide a vital link between the QAS and communities that they support, ensuring services are accessible and effective in response to community demand and expectations.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is currently actively supported by 135 LACs across Queensland which are comprised of approximately 1,225 members.

I am advised that the QAS has not issued a directive in relation to how fundraising is to be spent.

The QAS has, however, reiterated to LACs that fundraising efforts are best utilised when put directly back into developing community resilience and driving community engagement.

The official functions of LACs as defined in the *Ambulance Service Act 1991* include liaising between the community it represents and the QAS, promoting community participation in, and awareness of ambulance services, and undertaking fundraising activities for the benefit of ambulance services in the community they represent.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of our LAC volunteers, and the important role they play in their communities and in supporting the QAS.