

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Shane Broad MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My question is from Roger from Ulverstone. Minister, as you know, there are reported instances where patient transport is provided by a taxi or other contracted services, rather than ambulances. Can the Minister confirm whether there is any funding in the Budget specifically for reducing the reliance on taxis? How will the Government ensure ambulances are prioritised for emergency cases while still maintaining timely and appropriate transport for non-urgent patients across Tasmania?

ANSWER:

- The Tasmanian Government's priority is ensuring Tasmanians receive the right care, at the right time.
- Not all calls to Triple Zero are for emergencies, and while we absolutely would never discourage anyone from calling, we do need to ensure that life-threatening cases are prioritised.
- That's why Ambulance Tasmania's Secondary Triage service was set up by our government – to provide the best care pathway, or transport option, or even just general health advice, for those cases that do not require an emergency ambulance response.
- Where it is clinically safe and appropriate, alternative transport options may be used to support timely access to care while ensuring our ambulance resources remain available for life-threatening emergencies.
- This approach is consistent with standard practice across ambulance services nationally and internationally and does not replace paramedic care where clinical intervention is required.
- All patients considered for alternative transport undergo clinical assessment by an experienced Secondary Triage clinician to ensure it is safe for them to travel without paramedic support.
- Our Government will always back our dedicated healthcare workers who make these clinical judgements every single day.

- If our healthcare workers decide that a person does not need an ambulance, but they do need assistance to travel, we will step in and help them when it is safe and appropriate to do so, and importantly, this occurs in consultation with the patient and decided by the clinician.
- The Tasmanian Government is backing in Ambulance Tasmania through increased funding and resourcing to recruit more paramedics and build more ambulance stations, with the 2026-27 Budget investing \$776.6 million for ambulance services – over three quarters of a billion dollars.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 11 June 2026