

INQUIRY INTO RURAL HEALTH SERVICES IN TASMANIA

Attn: Jenny Mannering, Inquiry Secretary

Parliament House, HOBART 7000

I am deeply concerned at the inadequacy of the ambulance service in rural Tasmania especially in my region, the Huon.

I am advised that the service based in Huonville is frequently called to travel to Kingston to wait on standby if the ambulance there is called out on a job. This adds 25 minutes to the travel time for the ambulance if it is then called out to an emergency in the Huon. It also means that the ambulance is more likely to be used to supplement the metropolitan service.

This effect is that ambulance wait times in the Huon can extend to unacceptable levels. It also means that ambulance volunteers are, in effect, subsidising the metropolitan service.

It is my understanding that call out response times are not recorded for the rural services. Surely, a first step to improving the service is to have accurate data upon which to base policy.

Yours faithfully

Shane Johnson

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