

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Cecily Rosol MP

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

QUESTION:

My question is on behalf of a Bass constituent, Peter.

Last week, an elderly man fell in Kings Meadows and an ambulance was called. However, Peter and others had to care for the man as best as they could for over an hour before the ambulance arrived. Peter was deeply concerned that community members were left to provide care for so long when medical treatment was required, meaning the man was missing out on the care he needed.

Peter asks why this is allowed to happen in Tasmania. Why are the stadium and other non-urgent infrastructure projects being prioritised over ensuring we have enough emergency services to meet community need? And what are you doing to fix this problem so Tasmania has enough ambulances to meet the emergency care needs of all Tasmanians at the time they need it?

ANSWER:

I was very sorry to hear of Peter and the elderly gentleman's experience while waiting for an ambulance. I understand the distress that longer wait times for an ambulance can cause and I sincerely hope that the elderly gentleman has since recovered.

All requests for assistance received by the Ambulance Tasmania Communications Centre are triaged using an internationally recognised Medical Priority Dispatch System. The dispatch of ambulance resources to pending cases is done by prioritising the most seriously ill or injured patients first, with those in a critical condition requiring immediate attention.

Ambulance Tasmania strives to make sure wait times are minimised as much as possible. The Communications Centre actively monitors all wait times for patients awaiting a response and has processes in place, including call backs and referral to the Secondary Triage service if appropriate.

Improving response times for Ambulance Tasmania services is a major priority for the Tasmanian Government.

Specific actions to improve ambulance response times currently underway include reducing transfer of care delays at our hospitals to get our ambulances back on the road quicker, growing our paramedic workforce to meet the needs of our growing communities, and supporting new and innovative models of community-based care to ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

I can advise that recruitment is underway for 78 new full-time paramedic positions across the State to meet demand. Eight additional experienced paramedics will be joining our Tasmanian workforce in October 2025, following 31 graduate paramedics who have already commenced work in Tasmania this year.



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

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