

Constituent Question

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Miriam Beswick MP, Member for
Braddon, Jacqui Lambie Network

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP,
Minister for Health, Mental Health and
Wellbeing

QUESTION:

1. A volunteer ambulance officer from King Island contacted my office stating they were operating a 24/7 roster with volunteers and attend all emergencies with no paramedic backup. They also stated that last month they passed 1000 days in the station without a chair, a table or a desk or proper hand-washing facilities and for most of this time they have had a Portaloo. The station is a shed, it leaks, it is dusty and dirty and rodent infested. When can King Island expect upgrades to their ambulance facilities and is there an intention for there to be a paid qualified medic on the island or possibly for a community-based paramedic program to be implemented there?

ANSWER:

Our ambulance volunteers on King Island do have access to the Police Station when not in use, and 24/7 access to the King Island District hospital which provides meal, showering and toileting facilities. However, I fully understand the concerns raised in terms of having a contemporary ambulance station on the Island, and can assure the Member and our valuable volunteer ambulance officers that we are taking action to rectify it.

We have committed to providing a purpose-built Ambulance Station on King Island to provide a contemporary, fit-for-purpose facility.

I can advise the Department's Infrastructure Services team have already commenced planning works and are working with Ambulance Tasmania to begin consultation on the project. I'm advised the new station is expected to be operational by 2026.

Additionally, over the next four years, the Tasmanian Government has committed to funding 27 operational Community Paramedic positions across the state. This will include Community Paramedics on King Island, which is planned for the first year.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 11 June 2024