

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition No. 3 of 2022

House of Assembly

The petitioners ask the House to:

- Ambulance Tasmania has the worst response times in the Country.
- Ambulance Tasmania currently operates from 51 sites across the State.
- 37 of those sites rely on the goodwill of volunteers to complete the emergency response model.
- 13 of those 37 sites operate as volunteer only response without qualified paramedics.
- Single officer response from paramedics or volunteers always requires another ambulance to be dispatched for backup. This then results in two stations within the community without coverage.
- Australian Paramedics Association Tasmania (APA TAS) believes that all Tasmanian citizens deserve a qualified paramedic at their side when they most need it.
- All of our hardworking volunteers deserve full support and training from paramedics at all sites.
- APA TAS advocates for an increase in the number of salaried stations and staff in order to:
 - Reduce response times
 - Minimize single officer response
 - Keep up with the expansion and meet the demand ○ metro workloads and
 - Provide safer rosters and safer working conditions for all staff.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to approve the appointment of an additional 229 full time employees (FTE), which consists of an immediate recruitment of 119 FTE followed by the subsequent employment of an additional 110 FTE and supporting resources over a period of 3 years for a total of 188 frontline paramedics, 16 State Operation Centre staff and 25 non-operational support staff.

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

RESPONSE:

- The Tasmanian Government continues to prioritise Health and the 2022-23 State Budget includes record health funding of \$11.2 billion over four years, which will see an average health spend of \$7.25 million per day; representing one third of the Budget's total operating expenditure.
- As part of our investment into health, we are also investing in Ambulance Tasmania. The 2022-23 Budget fully funds 48 additional paramedics announced at the 2021 State Election. The implementation of these positions was brought forward in response to COVID-19 and are now funded permanently.
- The budget also allocates \$6.6 million to employ an additional 11 paramedics across Huonville and Sorell in response to the increasing demand we are seeing across these areas.
- Since March 2014, the Tasmanian Liberal Government has employed an additional 270 FTE staff within Ambulance Tasmania. This is an increase of approximately 41% since coming to Government.
- This includes upgrading the New Norfolk station to a career station and upgrading a number of single branch stations to double branch stations including Wynyard, Deloraine, George Town, Beaconsfield, Sheffield and Dodges Ferry.
- Ambulance Tasmania is also supported by approximately 400 active Volunteer Ambulance Officers who are integral to the provision of emergency medical responses in rural and remote communities across Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Government is working with the Volunteer Ambulance Officers Association of Tasmania to develop an appropriate and well-informed education curriculum for qualified volunteers.
- The Government also committed to undertaking a review into ambulance service demand across the State to assess the future needs of communities in Tasmania.
- This work has commenced, and the outcomes of the review will help ensure that future investments are determined using evidence on where best to expand and deploy new services.



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier
Minister for Health

Date:

5/9/22