

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Question without notice
C 197**

of which some notice is given

Tuesday, 18 June 2013

Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

With regard to the Report of the Auditor-General titled 'Delivering Western Australia's Ambulance Services' June 2013, I ask:

1. What measures will the Minister take to address the finding that St John Ambulance Australia (Western Australia) Inc. (SJA) has not consistently followed the activity criteria for allocating paramedics to country locations, with the result that some sub-centres are over-resourced and three (Broome, Geraldton and Albany) are under-resourced?
2. Will the Minister please explain why a committee set up to enable WA Health and SJA to discuss and resolve strategic and complex issues, such as a new contract and a new funding model, has not met for over a year and what is being done to rectify the situation?
3. If no to 2, why not?
4. Will the Minister please outline plans for addressing the ambulance needs of people living in remote towns, such as Nullagine and Marble Bar, for which funding is available through the WA Country Health Service but which are unable to attract and keep professional staff?
5. If no to 4, why not?

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Health.

1. St John Ambulance is responsible for the allocation of paramedics across the State with the agreement from WA Health. Regarding the allocation of paramedics in country locations, WA Health and St John Ambulance will review the allocation of paramedics to country locations as part of the redevelopment of a new contract commencing July 2014.
2. WA Health and SJA work in close partnership and meet on a monthly basis for contract management meetings. During these meetings, strategic and complex issues are often discussed. WA Health is currently drafting new draft terms of reference for the WA Ambulance Standing Committee including the membership and its strategic direction.



3. Not applicable.

4. As noted in the Auditor General's report, delivering ambulance services to regional and remote areas is a challenge and therefore, volunteer services are essential to support and deliver ambulance services in regional and remote areas of WA. WA Health is committed to work with SJA to recruit and retain staff to deliver ambulance services across Western Australia.

5. Not applicable.