



Hon Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee

File No: (DES/02/0310/P11)
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**Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services**

26 NOV 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 27 and 29 October 2010, regarding petitions received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, Numbers 1516-10 and 1561-10 in relation to a permanently staffed ambulance station at Kenilworth.

In rural communities like Kenilworth, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) adopts an integrated service model that includes First Responder Groups, acute ambulance resources and helicopter retrieval services. Kenilworth has an established QAS First Responder Group. In addition, Kenilworth is currently serviced by ambulance stations at Nambour, Maleny, Cooroy and Pomona and the Sunshine Coast community helicopter.

An integrated service model that utilises First Responders is effective. First Responders respond immediately to appropriate incidents and the closest available ambulance crew is simultaneously dispatched. The model provides immediate care from within the community until the arrival of ambulance transport.

The establishment and location of ambulance stations is determined by a number of factors, including the type of community (urban, rural and isolated), the number of incidents per day (demand), age demographic of the community, accessibility to (and egress from) road and air networks, response time profiling, ambulance utilisation rates, risk profiling of the community and, available health infrastructure/access to services.

In the 2009-10 financial year, the Kenilworth First Responder Group responded to 131 calls for ambulance assistance in the Kenilworth area. The current Kenilworth workload, which equates to approximately one response every two to three days, does not support the establishment of a full-time ambulance service at this time. In comparison, the average response numbers for the smaller ambulance stations within the North Coast Region were 442 responses for the 2009-10 financial year.

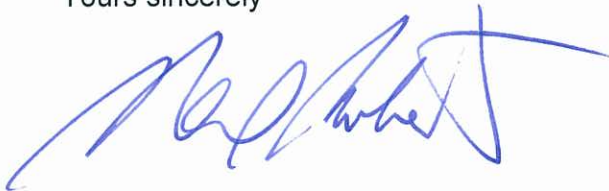
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However, the QAS will monitor the level of demand for services in the Kenilworth area to ensure the appropriate level of service is provided. Ongoing support to the Kenilworth community is carried out by the Officer-in-Charge, Maleny Ambulance Station in conjunction with the Area Director, Sunshine Coast, North Coast Region. These officers assist with the recruitment and retention of new staff for the Kenilworth First Responder Group. Their efforts to recruit new members are ongoing. First Responder Group members are volunteers whose selfless work and dedication to their local community is highly regarded.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Corinne Mulholland, Senior Policy Advisor, on telephone number (07) 3239 0199.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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