

AMBULANCE WORKERS — PROTECTIONS

578. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

I ask this question on behalf of Hon Martin Aldridge, who is away on urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to the Minister for Health's media statement on Boxing Day 2021 on presumptive post-traumatic stress disorder protections for ambulance workers.

- (1) Given that the ambulance service is overwhelmingly delivered by volunteers outside the metropolitan area, what protections has the government put in place to protect these frontline officers?
- (2) Does the state government directly employ any workers subject to the announced protections; and, if so, how many?
- (3) What engagement occurred with St John Ambulance and other employers of ambulance workers prior to the announcement on Boxing Day last year?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I think that the member said he asked the question on behalf of —

Hon Colin de Grussa: Hon Martin Aldridge.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: Yes, but I believe that the question was actually asked by the member himself. In my file it says that the question is asked by Hon Colin de Grussa. In any event, whichever member asked the question, I thank them for some notice.

Hon Sue Ellery interjected.

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: That is right, yes. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

- (1) The PTSD presumption does not apply to volunteers because volunteers are not covered under the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981.
- (2) Please refer this part of the question to the Minister for Health.
- (3) The PTSD presumption implemented a March 2021 election commitment. There was no engagement with St John Ambulance prior to the announcement on Boxing Day last year.