

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — VOLUNTEERS

908. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister explain why volunteers are approaching members of Parliament and saying that they are being prevented from using these life-saving defibrillators on the general public and can use them only on firefighters or bush fire brigade volunteers?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

That is the very first I have ever heard of that. If the volunteers that the member is referring to are bush fire volunteers—he can tell me by way of interjection —

Mr D.T. Redman: They are saying they can use them on them but not on the general public.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Are they bush fire volunteers?

Mr D.T. Redman: They can be used only on other firefighters or bush fire volunteers, yes. That's what I said.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I asked for an answer on that by way of interjection because, as I have said in this house numerous times, bush fire volunteers are effectively local government employees. If local governments make those determinations, and I hope they would not, there is not much we can do about it. Remember, they are their own government. I would hope that they would not be doing this. It is the first that I am aware of it —

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is the first I have been made aware of this as these defibrillators have been rolled out. I will follow up on the member's behalf now that he has raised the issue, but I presume—not that the member knows the answer to the question I put to him—it is from bush fire brigade volunteers.