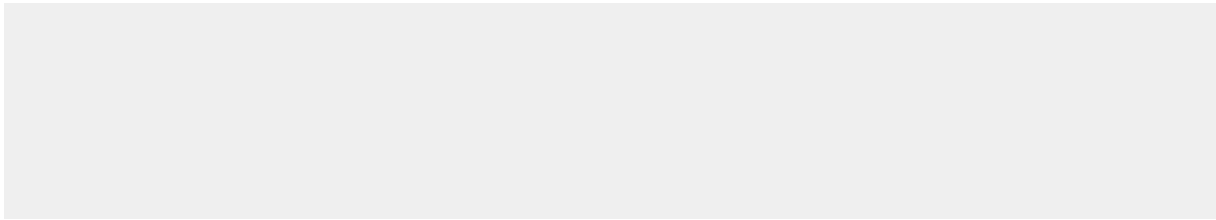


**SUBMISSION:**

**Inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia.**



Dear Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to review the provision of ambulance services in Western Australia.

I live and work on a rural property in the [REDACTED] Great Southern region. Our ambulance service is provided entirely by volunteers, with support from a Community Paramedic, who is based in another town. Given the distances between towns, the response times by local crews to local calls for an ambulance ensure that community members are attended to in a timely manner.

My concern with any model that removes local presence in all the towns that currently have an ambulance service, with a model that bases a small number of paramedics in larger towns, who are not able to provide consistent response times to a wide geographic area due to restricted numbers, will have a detrimental effect on the health outcomes of rural and regional people.

Medical facilities in [REDACTED] are sufficient, however we do not have an on-call doctor at the local hospital, and rely on ETS consultations in emergency situations. We have a severe nurse shortage in the local hospital. Frequently patients must be transported to the Albany Regional Hospital, as there is no doctor in the nearby regional town [REDACTED] either. In short, recruiting medical professionals to the regions is difficult, and an ongoing issue. Paramedic recruitment and retention in the regions would be no different, leading to an inferior level of service for country people.

Providing more funding to bolster the existing model with more Community Paramedics, together with paid ambulance transport officers for interhospital transfers, would be a sensible option to meet the needs of rural and regional Western Australians.

Yours sincerely,