

AMBULANCE SERVICES — BUNBURY

**829. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the accident, on 7 November, of the ambulance that was travelling from Australind.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the ambulance was responding to an accident in Gelorup?
- (2) Can the minister also confirm that the reason the ambulance was required to attend was because there was only one ambulance rostered in Bunbury that day and it was attending other calls?
- (3) If yes to (2), why was there only one ambulance rostered in Bunbury?

**Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) St John Ambulance has advised the following. Yes, one ambulance was rostered on in Bunbury on 7 November 2013. This rostered ambulance was tasked on another priority call, a police operation. Although the Bunbury crew could have been diverted to the Gelorup call, the Australind ambulance and paramedics were closer and were therefore dispatched.
- (3) St John Ambulance has advised that ambulance rostering is based on maintaining appropriate response times across the region, not only for Bunbury. All the ambulances are utilised across the entire region as per the needs of the situation on a case-by-case basis dependent on priority. Bunbury is surrounded by numerous other ambulance sub-centres, such as Australind, Collie and Busselton, which have career paramedics working alongside volunteers. Volunteer-only ambulance sub-centres operate out of Capel, Boyanup, Brunswick Junction and Harvey. St John Ambulance Bunbury also has a patient transfer crew that operates seven days a week for non-urgent transport. The Perth-based rescue helicopter was tasked to the Gelorup incident but was stood down as the other ambulances from within the region were closer and were responding. Bunbury residents were not left without an ambulance service and no adverse incidents were reported in Bunbury as a result of this tasking.