



**The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 60-31980

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Matt,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 October 2020 seeking a submission from my Health portfolio in response to Petition No 155 - Midwest region based Rescue Helicopter Service. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Retrieval and transport of patients in emergency situations is a complex area of service provision and there are numerous stakeholders involved. For country Western Australia (WA) this includes the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) providing fixed wing transport services, St John Ambulance (SJA) the provider of road-based transport and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) responsible for rotary wing assets.

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS), as you may be aware, has published the Country Ambulance Strategy with recommendations progressively being implemented, and WACHS also operates the Command Centre (an evolving service that commenced with the Emergency Telehealth Service). The Command Centre is in the process of developing the Acute Patient Transport Collaborative, which will bring key stakeholders together to more effectively coordinate the transport of acutely unwell people. This collaborative will provide country wide visibility of all patient movements required and enable the most appropriate asset to be tasked to transport the patient to the most appropriate health facility. This work will serve to inform future planning and investment into transport assets to deliver more effective services for country WA.

Whilst WACHS can provide data in relation to the specific questions outlined in your letter this would be inadequate to inform planning for transport assets given the variables and context associated with individual patient cases.

Data is available (attachment one) for cases treated by Geraldton Hospital, transferred to metropolitan hospitals from Geraldton Hospital or patients not able to be revived in the emergency department, but this data does not include details on pickup location (distance from hospital) nor identify cases that would have been suitable for rotary retrieval. Information pertaining to retrieval and transport direct to other health facilities in the metropolitan area, for example, is not directly available to WACHS and would be best sourced from the transport providers.

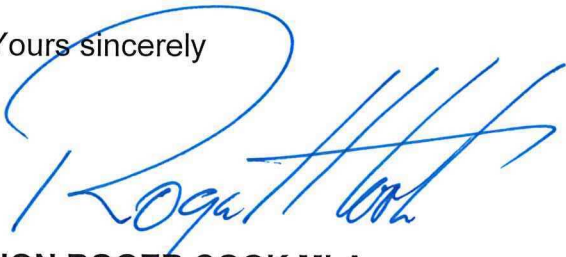
Planning and implementation of aeromedical assets (including rotary assets) in WA would be better informed by detailed strategic planning at a State level using a multiagency planning and review process, led by the Department of Health and the agency responsible for healthcare and patient transport.

I am pleased to advise that in the Midwest the newly constructed Jurien helipad at Jurien Health Centre is expected to be operational in the coming weeks.

If you require further information in relation to this matter, I encourage you to contact Ms Kylie Bosich, Director Command Centre, WACHS, on 0459 896 045.

Thank you for the invitation to provide a submission to your Committee. I look forward to the recommendations once all submissions are received.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook', with a large, stylized flourish above it.

HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH

19 NOV 2020

Att:

Geraldton	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan to Jun)
*Severely injured (ATS 1) arrived at Geraldton Hospital by ambulance	39	67	85	58
Treated in Geraldton	23 (59%)	54 (81%)	57 (67%)	35 (60%)
Transferred to Perth from Geraldton	16 (41%)	13 (19%)	28 (33%)	23 (40%)
Died in Emergency Department (not at scene or enroute)	8 (21% of total)	17 (25% of total)	16 (19% of total)	8 (14% of total)

Source: WACHS Emergency Data Collection