

For the Service of Humanity



Ms Margaret Liveris
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

5 April 2016

Dear Ms Liveris

Re: Petition No. 105 – Esperance Hospital Support Services

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above petition. I attach to this letter some data on drug related cases attended by ambulance crews based at St John's Esperance Sub Centre. This data indicates that the number of those cases has increased each year over the past three financial years but remains a small percentage of Esperance's overall workload (for which reason there are no 'special measures' required to meet this increase).

It is important to note that this data is based on information collected at the time of St John's attendance and relies entirely on what patients tell attending officers; for example, if any patient denies having consumed alcohol or illicit drugs, then neither drugs nor alcohol will be recorded on the patient care record.

Esperance Sub Centre is a volunteer-only sub centre however is served also by a regional Community Paramedic. There are currently 93 active volunteers at the sub centre who collectively sustain ambulance coverage for Esperance and surrounding communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I hope this information has been useful.

Yours sincerely

TONY AHERN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Drug related cases attended by Esperance crews

01/07/2013 – 29/02/2016

Ellie Balson
23/03/2016

Drug related cases attended by Esperance depot by financial year & age group

01/07/2013 – 29/02/2016

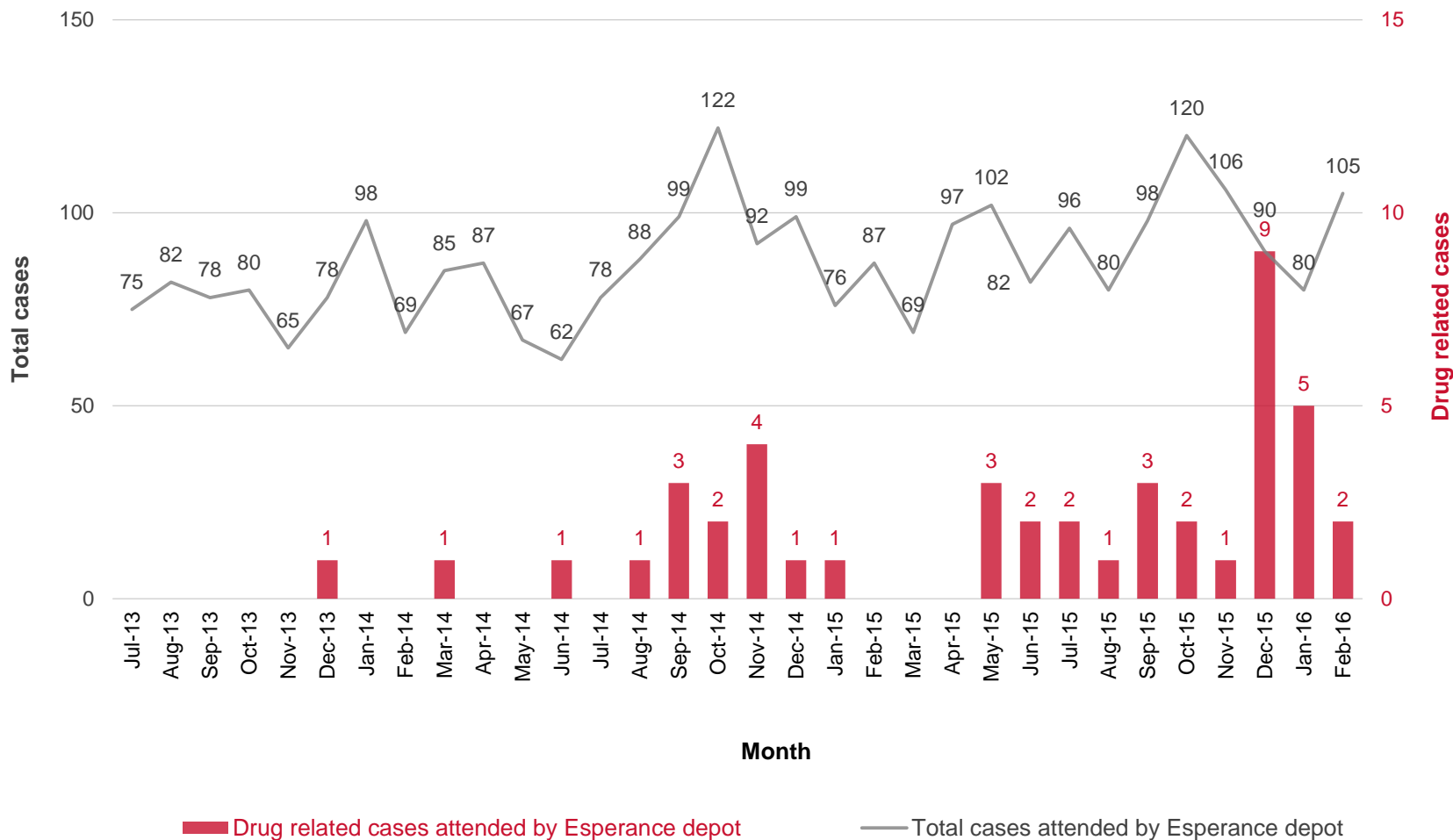


Drug related cases attended by Esperance crews				
<i>Identified using problem codes chosen by paramedics and a search of the text entered by paramedics</i>				
	FY13/14	FY14/15	FY15/16	Total
10 to 19	0	2	1	3
20 to 29	2	6	3	11
30 to 39	0	3	11	14
40 to 49	0	3	8	11
50 to 59	1	3	1	5
60 or over	0	0	1	1
Total	3	17	25	45

Data based on ePCR records. ePCR has been consistently used for Esperance crews from January 2014 onwards. Stood down, ASCU, backup, hoax and cancelled cases excluded. Drug related cases identified using problem codes 331 (Drug induced mental illness), 335 (Narcotic overdose), and a search of the examination text entered by the attending crew. Transfers included.

Drug related cases attended by Esperance depot by month

01/07/2013 – 29/02/2016



Data based on ePCR records. ePCR has been consistently used for Esperance crews from January 2014 onwards. Stood down, ASCU, backup, hoax and cancelled cases excluded. Drug related cases identified using problem codes 331 (Drug induced mental illness), 335 (Narcotic overdose), and a search of the examination text entered by the attending crew. Transfers included.