

Constituent Question

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Craig Garland MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My question is from a constituent in my area.

At both the 2024 and 2025 elections, your government promised three additional paramedics for Smithton and a paramedic rostered 24 hours a day.

Circular Head Council first raised this issue with me in 2024.

The community remains concerned that when Smithton's ambulance is already responding to an emergency, another ambulance may have to come from Wynyard or Burnie.

This morning on ABC radio, Mayor Gerard Blizzard again raised the community's frustration that this promise remains unfulfilled.

Mr Blizzard is in Hobart this week for the Local Government Association Conference.

Premier, will you or your Health Minister meet with him and provide a firm timeline for delivery?

When will the Government's promise of additional paramedics for Smithton be delivered in full?

ANSWER:

- Ambulance Tasmania is committed to providing high quality and timely patient care, including making sure that the most urgent, life-threatening cases are responded to first.
- All requests for an ambulance response are triaged by priority and provided the most appropriate response option.

- When local crews in rural and regional areas like Smithton and Wynyard are already attending high-priority cases, ambulances may need to be dispatched from larger neighbouring areas.
- Smithton Ambulance Station currently operates as a single-branch model supported by a Branch Station Officer who is on call overnight and Volunteer Ambulance Officers who provide emergency medical services across the Circular Head region.
- Ambulance Tasmania is progressing plans to upgrade Smithton Ambulance Station to a double-branch station supported by an additional 3.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) paramedics, in line with our election commitment.
- This will see the station staffed by paramedics 24 hours per day, enhancing emergency response capability, improving workforce sustainability and strengthening services for the local community.
- Consultation begins with staff on 27 August 2026, and concludes in mid-September, with recruitment for the additional paramedics expected to commence following this process.
- Ambulance Tasmania is committed to progressing the recruitment process as quickly as possible.
- With regard to meeting Circular Head Council Mayor Gerard Blizzard, I can confirm that I am meeting with Mayor Blizzard in September.

APPROVED



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 27 August 2026