



8 November 2019



Our Ref: DEN067-191108

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Via email: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

I wish to draw your attention to the needs of the residents of Tocumwal for the establishment of a stand-alone ambulance service within the town. This issue has previously been brought to your attention by Austin Evans and raised with predecessors since 2001.

It is time to take the safety and health needs of this town seriously. Since 2001 the population of Tocumwal has seen a continual and steady rise in comparison to nearby townships, which are serviced with an ambulance station, as shown by the figures below:

Census Data	2001	2006	Change	2016	Change
Berrigan	832	899	+7%	934	+3%
Finley	1901	2054	+8%	1888	-8%
Tocumwal	1527	1860	+18%	2352	+21%

While I understand that population growth is not one consideration it is an important one, with figures provided by NSW Ambulance shown that Community First Responders (CFR) are being utilised in 64% of P1 and P2 incidents. While I support the amazing work that CFR volunteers undertake, they are not paramedics and the reliance on them to perform as such tasks until the arrival of an ambulance from 'nearby' towns is not a long term solution.

I note from your response to the Tocumwal residents petition in November last year that the towns proximity to existing services is a factor in your planning process, I would ask if you feel that waiting approximately 18 minutes for the Finley paramedics, 28 minutes for the Berrigan paramedics or close to an hour from Deniliquin is considered appropriate when it comes to people's lives.

The growing needs and demands of Tocumwal have outgrown the CFR model and calls for a total reassessment of the service requirements. What was put in place 20 years ago is no longer appropriate.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you in detail at your earliest convenience, together with representatives from the Ambulance for Tocumwal Steering Committee and NSW Ambulance.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray

CC: David Dutton, Director Clinical Operations NSW Ambulance
Brian White, Deputy Director Clinical Operations Southern Regional Division NSW Ambulance
Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon David Elliott MP