



2nd July 2007

NSW Ambulance fees still the lowest in Australia

NSW residents will continue to pay the lowest ambulance fees in Australia, following increases recommended by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

IPART is the state's economic regulator and advises government on charges levied for government services.

IPART recommended that the Ambulance Service of NSW change its revenue and charging structures from 1 July 2006, with a view to improving the sustainability of the Service's funding into the future.

IPART recommended that fees charged for primary emergency ambulance transport for NSW residents within NSW be increased gradually over a three-year period until charges levied represent 52% of the cost of the service provided. The 2007-08 financial year is the second year of that three-year period.

From 1 July 2007, residents of NSW, or any other state or territory which is party to any reciprocal agreement for ambulance services, will be charged at a rate of 46% of the full ambulance cost for primary emergency services.

That means NSW residents requiring road ambulance or helicopter transfer within NSW would be required to pay \$256 callout, plus an additional charge of \$2.31 per kilometre or part thereof.

The full cost for ambulance services, in line with the IPART recommendation and as gazetted in NSW Government Gazette No 81, are as follows:

Clause 2. (NSW G/G No 81) The fee for a **primary emergency** service by road ambulance and/or fixed wing ambulance and/or helicopter shall be charged on a kilometre basis calculated pursuant to clause 8 (as gazetted in NSW Government Gazette No



81), on the scale of \$556 callout, plus an additional charge of \$5.01 for each kilometre or part thereof.

Comparative call out fees & per KM charges 06/07-07/08

Road				Fixed wing & helicopter	
Emergency		Non-emergency		Emergency	
07/08	06/07	07/08	06/07	07/08	06/07
\$256	\$222	\$221	\$212	\$256	\$222
\$2.31	\$2.01	\$1.37	\$1.3	\$2.31	\$2.01

There will be no changes to existing exemptions from ambulance transport fees - pensioners, health care card holders and veterans will remain exempt from fees.