



Monday 14 August 2017

media release

NSW Ambulance to Strengthen Coolamon Staffing Model with Additional Paramedics

NSW Ambulance has today committed to strengthening the planned blended paramedic/qualified Volunteer Ambulance Officer staffing model at Coolamon, through the appointment of another two permanently appointed paramedics at the new station.

Commissioner Dominic Morgan, Chief Executive NSW Ambulance said this decision, in response to carefully considered feedback, represents a significant enhancement for the Coolamon area which currently has no ambulance service located in the town.

“I can confirm that when the new station at Coolamon becomes operational later this year, it will be supported by five paramedics and a contingent of NSW Ambulance trained and qualified Volunteer Ambulance Officers,” Mr Morgan said.

“Supporting five locally stationed paramedics with NSW Ambulance trained Qualified Volunteer Ambulance Officers builds a safety net in this community, allowing us to medically assist the Coolamon community from the local area 24/7.”

“Boosting the number of paramedics at Coolamon from three to five, supported by Qualified Volunteer Ambulance Officers will further enable us to support the town during times when the local crew is already responding to a patient, either at Coolamon or in a nearby town, and a second Triple Zero (000) call occurs.”

NSW Ambulance hopes today’s additional staffing announcement will reassure the community that they are receiving the best possible service fit to support their local area.

This week, Chief Executive Dominic Morgan visited the Volunteer Ambulance Officers in training, who have so far learned effective CPR, how to use a defibrillator, pharmacology, infection control, oxygen equipment use, airway obstruction, diabetic emergencies and how to manage and assist an unconscious patient.

Proudly wearing their training uniforms, the group will this weekend undertake a series of practical training exercises under the watchful eye of Paramedic Educators.

“The training I’ve received from NSW Ambulance has been first class and it will be a real privilege to work alongside paramedics delivering care to patients in need, right here in my town where we’ve never had ambulance facilities before,” said retired school teacher and NSW Ambulance Volunteer Ambulance Officer in training, Martin.

Recruitment will now occur to secure the five paramedics who will work from the new station.

“NSW Ambulance is committed to working with residents to ensure the resources in their town are the best fit for their community.”



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“It is important that we provide a service that supports the medical needs of the local community, but which also is clinically engaging for our highly trained and qualified paramedics,” Mr Morgan said.

“The experience qualified Volunteer Ambulance Officers will gain on the road with us and their ongoing learning requirements ensure that they work seamlessly as part of the team,” said Tottenham Station Officer Alan Flavel who has been working alongside qualified Volunteer Ambulance Officers for years.

NSW Ambulance has worked collaboratively with the local community and staff since 2014. Extensive review and community consultation was conducted through town meetings and the establishment of a Committee including NSW Ambulance representatives and the Coolamon Shire Council which resulted in the development of the endorsed NSW Ambulance Health Service Plan for the Coolamon Shire.

NSW Ambulance has 400 qualified volunteers working to support paramedics across the state.