



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Parliamentary Written Question 111/2023

Written Question: Hon. Penioni Ravunawa to ask the Minister for Health & Medical Services - Can the Minister for Health & Medical Services inform Parliament on the amount spent on the Ministry's Ambulance Services in the last 6 months for each health centre around the country?

Written Response:

The ambulance service is an integral part of the whole health service and it connects the people directly to

the health care, thereby enhancing our people's access to health services.

In Fiji, we have continued to witness the increasing demand for ambulance services and our ambulance are always on the move to retrieve patients from their homes in the community, or from sites of motor vehicle accidents or other sites where the injured or sick is waiting, or to transfer patients between health facilities.

At the height of the COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji, ambulances and ambulance services were in high demand particularly in regions where the outbreak was happening to not only carry COVID-19 patients to and

from the isolation facilities, but also attend to patients with other non-COVID medical conditions that also require their transfer to the health facilities.

Our ambulances traverse many rugged and rough terrain throughout the country to access our remote communities such as in the highlands in the interior of Navosa, Naitasiri, and Ra, the rural villages in Tailevu, Macuata and Cakaudrove, and maritime communities with road access such as on the island of Ovalau, and this is critical for our effort to achieve Universal Health Coverage and ensure that no one is left behind in accessing the essential health care they need. This is in line with the Government's intent for health service in

Fiji, so the ambulances we have are helping us to achieve this mission.

At the moment ambulances are allocated to the eight (8) major hospitals or cost centres and they are;

- CWM Hospital
- Lautoka Hospital
- Tamavua Twomey Hospital
- Saint Giles Hospital
- Central Health Services
- Eastern Health Services
- Western Health Services
- Northern Health Services.

For the past six(6) months of the last financial year, a total of \$1.7million was spent on Ambulance Services.

Ambulance service is also intimately linked to our retrieval services that is conducted primarily by our Emergency Medicine physicians but also other specialties in our referral hospitals.

To maximise the impact of having ambulance services, we have also invested in improving our patient retrieval capabilities through ongoing training for our doctors and nurses in the Emergency Medicine departments, as well as other clinical departments that provide critical health care, place specialists from our referral hospitals at the peripheral health facilities to build capacity and improve diagnosis and management

of patients, as well as continue to procure medical equipment and supplies that will support their work.

ENDS

EXPENDITURE FOR LAST 6 MONTHS-FY 2022/23			
DESCRIPTION	COST CENTRES	ALLOCATIONS	AMOUNT
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	CWM HOSPITAL	1-22202-81201-059131	241,722.63
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	LAUTOKA HOSPITAL	1-22203-84201-050262	2,068.81
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	TAMAVUA TWOMEY HOSPITAL	1-22205-81401-059131	3,858.71
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	SAINT GILES HOSPITAL	1-22206-81301-050262	64.22
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	CENTRAL HEALTH SERVICES	1-22301-81102-050262	247,425.80
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	EASTERN HEALTH SERVICES	1-22302-82101-050262	18,292.12
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	WESTERN HEALTH SERVICES	1-22303-84101-050262	1,147,285.84
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE	NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES	1-22304-83101-059131	46,937.94
	TOTAL		1,707,656.07