



SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK

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**Our Reference:**  
**Your Reference:**

7 December 2018

Acting Chief Executive  
 WA Country Health Service  
 PO Box 6680  
 EAST PERTH  
 WA 6770

Dear Margaret Denton

### **Country Ambulance Strategy: Draft open for public consultation**

The Shire of Halls Creek Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) in its meeting held on 6 December 2018 resolved to make a submission on the Draft Country Ambulance Strategy. The Committee noted that the services of St John Ambulance Western Australia (SJA) are not available in the Halls Creek district. The initial findings of the strategy reveal inequity between 'metropolitan services and those in the country'. The Committee is of the opinion that there is also inequity between services in the country, considering that Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby do not have SJA services.

Halls Creek District hospital currently manages the ambulance service in Halls Creek. Some ambulance training is provided to nursing staff but attending ambulance call outs isn't part of nursing staff's initial core curriculum where as SJA volunteers are exposed to SJA training weekly to maintain pre-hospital emergency care and skills.

We believe that the provision of pre-hospital care from St John will provide an equitable service comparable to other parts of WA. The Hospital notes that the St Johns Service is of high quality and offers significant training and support to volunteers who assist as first responders. The Community Paramedic model delivered in Kununurra with support from a volunteer work force has had significant success in the remote community context. From time to time St John volunteer ambulance officers reside in Halls Creek and are unable to maintain their skills or offer their service.

There is also the burden of Inter hospital Patient Transfer on the system. Air ambulances are the main mode of IHPT at great cost. Road ambulance services could reduce costs where such transfer can be done without risk to the patient.

The Committee requests that one of the recommendations be the increase of the SJA service coverage to include all town centres in the Kimberley, and we write with particular focus on Halls Creek.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Loessl', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Chris Loessl  
Chairperson  
Halls Creek Local Emergency Management Committee