

Road Ambulance Services Scoping Review - NT
Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

This review will examine future directions for road ambulance services in the Northern Territory.

In the Australian context, the term “ambulance services” is generally understood to include two separate but related functions: (a) the provision of pre-hospital healthcare (typically emergency treatment but may include first aid or medical treatment), and; b) the transport of sick or injured people. This meaning of ambulance services will be adopted for this review.

Therefore, this review will focus on ambulance services, as defined above, that are provided by road across the Northern Territory.

2. Scope and Objectives

The Road Ambulance Services Scoping Review will:

- Identify contemporary best practice in the delivery of road ambulance services by benchmarking against road ambulance services elsewhere that operate in a context relevant to the Northern Territory.
- Consider the need for future regulation of road ambulance services in the Northern Territory.
- Identify future workforce requirements for a contemporary road ambulance service in the Northern Territory including the training, development and retention of the ambulance services workforce.
- Examine the interface between road ambulance services and other emergency services to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency responses including the interface with aeromedical services. (Aeromedical services are not within scope for this review.)

3. Governance

The Scoping Review will be overseen by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Department of Health, and undertaken by an independent consultant (Dr Neale Fong). A Review Consultative Committee will be established to facilitate and ensure close consultation with key stakeholders throughout the Review. The Consultative Committee will be chaired by the Deputy CEO, Department of Health and will include executive representation from St John Ambulance Australia NT, United Voice, the two Health Services, and the Department of Health.

Project support will be provided through the System Performance and Innovation Division of the Department of Health.

4. Consultation

Consultation with key stakeholders will be integral to the Scoping Review. Specific opportunities for input will be provided to St John Ambulance Australia NT, United Voice, Top End Health Service, Central Australia Health Service and the Department of Health. These opportunities will include representation on the Consultative Committee as well as an invitation from the independent consultant to provide written comments, and to participate in one-on-one discussions and/or group consultations. Other stakeholders may also be identified for consultation during the Review.

5. Report to the Minister

The CEO Department of Health will provide a written report to the Minister for Health by 31 October 2017. The Minister has committed to publishing the report upon receiving it.