



MORE AMBULANCES ARRIVING SOONER IN KINGSTON THANKS TO RECORD INVESTMENT

More ambulances are arriving at emergencies sooner with Victoria's ambulance response times the quickest they have been in five years.

The latest Ambulance Victoria response time data, released today, shows ambulances are now arriving at Code One emergency cases faster than the same time last year, with 76.6 per cent of Code One incidents responded to within 15 minutes – an improvement of 2 per cent compared to the previous year.

This is a further improvement on the 2015/16 result of 75.2 per cent released recently in the Ambulance Victoria annual report.

Under the previous government, this figure fell to a record low of 73 per cent at the height of the ambulance crisis, earning them the unenviable title of having the worst ambulance response times on the Australian mainland.

Ambulance performance in Kingston continues to improve, with the average Code One response time of 11:15 minutes in the September quarter an improvement on the 11:51 minute average Code One response time a year earlier.

Ambulances attended 85.7% of Code One calls within the benchmark 15 minutes – up from 83% in the September 2015 quarter.

They are also better than the September quarter 2013/14, in the last full year of the previous government – when ambulances in Kingston attended just 80.82% of Code One calls in the benchmark 15 minutes, and had an average Code One response time of 12:16 minutes.

These improved response times come despite record demand for ambulances and in our emergency departments, and are a testament to the significant reforms undertaken and funded by the Labor Government to rebuild our ambulance services after four years of crisis and neglect under the former Government.

The *Victorian Budget 2016/17* included a massive \$144 million boost to repair the damage caused by the previous government and make sure Victorians in life threatening situations get the emergency ambulance care they need, sooner.

The latest *Victorian Health Services Performance* data, also released today, shows the Labor Government's record investment to tackle elective surgery waiting lists is paying immediate dividends.

The number of patients waiting for surgery at the end of September was 40,508 – 1200 fewer than a year earlier - and well below the record 50,054 patients in March 2013 when waiting lists skyrocketed under the previous government.

These strong results come despite hospitals continuing to treat more and more patients, with the 453,483 admissions in the September quarter the highest number ever reported.

Locally, services at Monash Health's Moorabbin Hospital continue to improve in a number of key areas including:

- Treated 2068 patients from the elective surgery waiting list in the September quarter, up on the 2003 waiting list admissions in the same period in 2015.
- Provided operations within the benchmark 30 days for 100% of the hospital's 775 Category 1 urgent elective surgery patients in the September quarter.

- Provided operations within the benchmark 90 days for 87% of the hospital’s Category 2 urgent elective surgery patients in the September quarter – up from 79% a year earlier.
- Treated half of the hospital’s Category 1 elective surgery patients within 14 days – well under the 30-day benchmark.
- Provided a total of 10,683 bed-days to patients in the 3 months to the end of September – up from 10,287 bed-days for the previous year.
- Reduced the number of patients on the elective surgery waiting list – from 1663 at the end of the September 2015 quarter to 1243 at the end of this September.

We will continue to build on these improvements, with Victorian hospitals signing up to ambitious targets as part of their Statement of Priorities agreements for 2016/17 to perform even more surgeries and achieve even lower waiting list targets.

Monash Health’s Statement of Priorities, which includes Moorabbin Hospital, has set an elective surgery admission target of 29,400 patients – an increase on last year’s target. The hospital has also been challenged to reduce its waiting list consistent with the previous year’s target.

Quotes attributable to Member for Mordialloc, Tim Richardson MP

“City of Kingston patients experiencing life threatening conditions can have every confidence they will receive faster responses from paramedics today than they did under the previous government. These improvements have occurred in conjunction with a growing demand for ambulances.”

“People in the City of Kingston waiting for surgery can also be confident they will receive their operations sooner as a result of our record investment in our hospitals to bring down waiting times.”

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy

“With ambulance response times now the best they have been in five years, this shows what can be achieved by working together with our paramedics – instead of declaring war on them like the Liberals did.”

“The latest hospital performance data confirms that despite record demand on our doctors, nurses and paramedics more patients are getting the treatment and surgeries they need sooner.”