

# RAAV SAVINGS

**Special points of interest:**

- > Combined Meetings
- > First Air Ambulances in Australia
- > Critical Response Display
- > A Trip To Antarctica
- > Guest Speaker for Doncaster



Current Style of Ambulance

**Inside this issue:**

Critical Response Display	2
Around the State Reports	2
New Members	3
Dates for the Diary	3
The Back Page	4

**Working with Paramedics to End the Ambulance Crisis**

**Interim findings  
Key challenges**

The committee's interim report confirms a set of system-wide failures that the committee considers would, in all likelihood, worsen without a new start. In particular the committee has found:

- Ambulance response time performance in Victoria has declined over the past six years.
- Dispatching an ambulance to a Code 1 incident takes, on average, a minute longer in the metropolitan region than it did six years ago.
- The statewide target of 85 per cent of Code 1 incidents being responded to within 15 minutes has not been met since it was established in 2007. In the past six years it has fallen from 82 per cent (2008-09) to 74 per cent (2013-14). The Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* confirms that Ambulance Victo-

ria's response times are among the worst in Australia.

- The time ambulances are spending at hospitals has increased from 2008-09, including ramping during periods of high demand.
- Public demand for emergency ambulance services in Victoria has risen strongly – 5 per cent per annum over the past six years. Demand for Code 1 services in metropolitan Melbourne has increased very significantly, with 6.4 per cent growth per annum in Code 1 incidents over the past six years.
- Feedback indicates that many incidents are being dispatched as requiring 'lights and sirens' when that is not the clinical requirement.
- Ambulance Victoria's workforce experiences unacceptable levels of dissatisfaction and disengagement, workplace fatigue, injury and violence, which impact on their

health and wellbeing.

Opportunities for reform  
The proposed reform opportunities include the following:

- Ambulance Victoria should reaffirm its core role as an emergency pre-hospital health response provider and to work collaboratively with other parts of the health system to support patients to receive 'the right care, at the right place, at the right time'.
- Victoria has a committed paramedic workforce that at times feels undervalued and disempowered. This needs to change so that Ambulance Victoria's culture better reflects community values and expectations.
- Ambulance call taking and dispatch is a critical part of emergency ambulance response. Greater focus is required on accurately identifying patient needs during call taking so that the right response can be provided. Please refer to page 3 for full report copy

**Combined Meeting of SW and Geelong Members**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

A combined meeting of SW Victorian and Geelong members was held at the Commercial Hotel Camperdown on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, with an amazing attendance of 24 people.

The meeting was attended by a number of wives and Members and Ian Donaldson and Ian Cameron represented the

State Executive.

It was a good opportunity to catch up with Gerry Thomas and the rest of the Members from Geelong and to discuss old times, with cross boundary chatter between Members, and others who were present, being abundant. Everyone commented on the standard of the food and agreed that such joint meetings are very productive with

excellent outcomes.

Both the SW and Geelong are inspired to collaborate again in the future, with the idea of also meeting with Ballarat Members.

The next meeting of the SW Members will be in Warrnambool on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.



