



**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES**

**Territory of Christmas Island
Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands**

File No: 2006/0021

26 September 2011

Mr Tim Watling
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network

Dear Mr Watling,

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

During questions of me from Senator Hanson-Young in the hearings on Christmas Island on Tuesday, 6 September 2011, the following exchange took place:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would you like to pick up on the question I gave to Mr Thompson on notice around access to and support of the ambulance service. I imagine that would be a service that is funded through department of regional Australia. Is that correct?

Mr Lacy: It is a St Johns voluntary service. Yes, it is funded through the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It has a Commonwealth grant?

Mr Lacy: I am probably not the best person to answer that question, I am sorry. But I can take it on notice and provide a written statement.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It is a voluntary service. The ambulance drivers here on the island are all voluntary.

Mr Lacy: Yes.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many are there?

Mr Lacy: I will have to take that on notice.

See Transcript, page 22.

In response to the Senator's questions about funding for the ambulance service I provide the following answer:

The Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) is managed by the Indian Ocean Territories Administration and funded by the Department of Regional Australia. The IOTHS provides support to St John's Ambulance service by way of equipment and consumables. A budget allocation of \$50,000 per annum is made available for the ambulance service.

In response to the Senator's question about the number of volunteers I provide the following answer:

Currently there are seven volunteers engaged in St John's ambulance service on Christmas Island. An ambulance training course is planned for the first week of October 2011 with an expectation that the number of volunteers will increase by seven to a total of 14.

I trust this deals adequately with the questions asked, but please do not hesitate to let me know if any further detail is required.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Lacy
Administrator