



4 June 2009

## **ANOTHER QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE BUNGLE**

There are just 8 Intensive Care Paramedics and 4 part-time to service an area stretching from Gympie to Caloundra.

Member for Noosa Glen Elmes said today that he had received a leaked document from Michael Riordan, Acting-Area Director, Sunshine Coast Area, North Coast Region which lists all of the Intensive Care Paramedics by name and station throughout the area and their status of availability.

"We actually have 34 Intensive Care Paramedics assigned to the Coast which has a population of 312,000 residents and a further 38,000 residents in and around Gympie. It is an outrage that almost 350,000 residents - not to mention tourists and day-trippers - have to rely on such a dilapidated ambulance service.

"These paramedics, who cost the taxpayer more than \$100,000 to train, could reduce even more if further transfer applications are successful.

"In the leaked memo the Acting-Area Director Michael Riordan says ... *"at the moment we have approximately 8 to 10 ICPs to cover the area. We have a couple of students as well."* He goes on to say *"any ICPs successful in this new process will significantly reduce the capacity of the Sunshine Coast area to provide Intensive care paramedic coverage 24 hours per day 7 days per week."*

Glen Elmes said that people living on the Sunshine Coast and throughout Queensland were paying their ambulance levy, in many cases more than once, for a first class ambulance service and now we find that in the Sunshine Coast area at least they can't even manage a roster, let alone ensure adequate protection and help 24 hours a day for local residents.

"It's just like everything else in Queensland under this Bligh Labor Government. If it's not sold, it's broken." **ENDS**

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