

15 June 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submissions on Emergency Ambulance Services joint funding discussion document

Thank you for taking the time to make a submission to NASO on the discussion document *A joint ACC and Ministry of Health funding model for emergency ambulance services*.

NASO received 29 comprehensive submissions and we would like to acknowledge the time and effort that went into preparing each one.

Themes

A number of key themes were identified from the analysis of the submissions. These themes were:

- Separate models for road and air ambulance services
- desire for a whole-of-government approach to ambulance services eg inter-hospital transfers, Search and Rescue
- further consideration of the role and level of community based/provider sourced funding
- payment by ACC in situations where the patient does not require transport
- the sustainability of ambulance services in New Zealand
- better integration of the ambulance service into the wider health system
- reviewing the ambulance service delivery model.

Further to the key themes, a number of minor themes also came through in the analysis:

- the need for longer contract terms
- the desire for "exceptional circumstances" contingency funding to be built into the model for major events (eg Canterbury earthquake)
- funding floors were considered an inappropriate feature of a new funding model.

We have compiled a report to the Ministers on the results of the consultation feedback and this will be considered by Cabinet in July.

Time delays

We acknowledge that it has taken longer than initially expected to complete the consultation and submission analysis phase of work on developing the funding model.

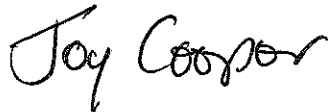
The delays experienced to date have partly been based on the large number of comprehensive submissions that NASO received and more time was required to analyse these submissions appropriately. More significantly, further delays were experienced due to the Canterbury earthquake, which required many of us to refocus on the immediate implications of the national disaster.

We thank you for your continued patience through this process.

Next Steps

NASO will publish the submissions analysis in July. The analysis will be available for you to view from the NASO website. We expect to begin work on detailed funding model in August. I will send you further information after the Ministers have considered the feedback.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joy Cooper
GROUP MANAGER, NASO