

Ambulance Services in Australia

As of June 2007

Released by Peg Putt MHA, Greens Opposition Leader

Queensland:

Government Operated Ambulance Service - Yes

Ambulance Levy: Yes

How Collected: As part of Electricity Bill.

Ambulance Charges: No

Fee: \$95.23 per annum (Levy)

Fee method: not applicable

How fee collected: not applicable.

Who is charged: not applicable.

Level of non payment: not applicable.

New South Wales:

Government Operated Ambulance Service - Yes

Ambulance Levy: Yes

How Collected: From Private Health Funds for those with coverage..

Ambulance Charges: Yes

Fee: Based on call out and distance travelled (\$222 call out; \$2.01 per km to Maximum charge of \$4,404).

Fee method: Call out fee the per km charge.

How fee collected: From insurance or account sent out.

Who is charged: Private Health Insurance covered; All other except:

Free for concession card holders

Workers compensation/ Third party insurance cover in certain circumstances.

Level of non payment: unknown (47% of directly billed do not pay in 2003/04).

Victoria

Government Operated Ambulance Service – Yes/No (Government Owned Statutory authorities)

Operator: Metropolitan Ambulance Service; Rural Ambulance Service.

Ambulance Levy: No

Ambulance Charges: Yes

Fee: \$825 (complex but this is call out and transport to Hospital)

Fee method: Flat rate. (except for aircraft fee + time charge e.g. Helicopter \$2,865.45 first hour and 47.76 each additional minute.)

How fee collected: Account sent out.

Who is charged: All other except:

Pensioner or healthcare card holder.
Level of non payment: not known.

South Australia:

Government Operated Ambulance Service – No

Operator: South Australian Ambulance Services (St John's Ambulance).

Ambulance Levy: No (Although a contribution is made from Emergency Services Levy)

Ambulance Charges: Yes

Fee: About \$600

Fee method: not known

How fee collected: not known.

Who is charged: All other except:

- 50% discount on ambulance transport costs to holders of a SA Pensioner Concession Card

Level of non payment: not known.

Western Australia:

Government Operated Ambulance Service – No

Operator: St John's Ambulance

Ambulance Levy: No

Ambulance Charges: Yes

Fee: Life threatening emergency or Urgent \$ 524 Routine transport \$ 317 Patient

Transport Vehicle \$ 285

Fee method: Flat rate

How fee collected: not known.

Who is charged: All other except:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Aged pensioners will be entitled to free ambulance services and senior citizens aged 65 years and over will receive a 50 per cent subsidy

(Covers All emergency ambulance services; and Non-urgent ambulance services that are deemed to be medically necessary).

Level of non payment: not known.

ACT:

Government Operated Ambulance Service - Yes

Ambulance Levy: Yes

How Collected: From Private Health Funds for those with coverage..

Ambulance Charges: Yes

Fee: \$670

Fee method: Flat rate

How fee collected: not known.

Who is charged: Private Health Insurance covered; All other except:

 Pensioner concession and healthcare cardholders

 Road accidents covered by road rescue fee levy

 Dept of Veterans Affairs card holders

 May be covered for workers compensation.

Level of non payment: not known.

Northern Territory:

Government Operated Ambulance Service – No

 Operator: St John's Ambulance

Ambulance Levy: No

Ambulance Charges: Yes

 Fee: ?

Fee method: not known

Who is charged: All other except:

Level of non payment: not known.

Tasmania:

Government Operated Ambulance Service - Yes

Ambulance Levy: No

Ambulance Charges: Yes (New arrangements)

 Fee: \$690

Fee method: not known yet.

How fee collected: Account.

Who is charged: not yet known.