

Our Ref: (DES/02/0507-1103)

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 21 June 2004, enclosing a petition received by the House on 18 June 2004 from Ms Jennifer Kutasi of Macleay Island, regarding the request for a permanent Paramedic on Macleay Island to enhance service delivery.

Mr John English MP, Member for Redlands is to be commended for providing invaluable assistance in resolving the resourcing issues on Macleay Island and meeting with me on several occasions on behalf of his constituents.

I am pleased to advise that Macleay Island will now be supported by the presence of a permanent Paramedic, in the form of an Officer-in-Charge, Southern Bay Islands. The Officer-in-Charge will be based on Macleay Island to facilitate the day-to-day operations, management and response to incidents on the Islands of Macleay, Russell, Lamb and Karragarra, and has Macleay Island's Local Ambulance Committee's endorsement.

The advertisement for the position of Officer-in-Charge, Southern Bay Islands was placed in the Government Gazette on Friday, 4 June 2004.

Given that there will be a permanent presence on Macleay and Russell Islands, this will assist with the recruitment of future Honorary Ambulance Officers and First Responders. The Queensland Ambulance Service have informed me that advertising for Honorary Ambulance Officers for the Southern Bay Islands has commenced. When this process is complete, a three-tiered response of a Paramedic, Honorary Ambulance Officer and First Responders will be available to the Southern Bay Islands. This is a great outcome for all residents of the Southern Bay Islands.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Cummins MP
Minister for Emergency Services