

Ambulance Service (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020

Explanatory notes for SL 2020 No. 100

made under the

Ambulance Service Act 1991

General Outline

Short title

Ambulance Service (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020

Authorising law

Section 54 of the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The *Queensland Government Principles for Fees and Charges* (January 2018) requires agencies to set fees and charges to accurately reflect the cost of providing their services, and to ensure these fees and charges maintain their value over time. Where a regular comprehensive review of fees and charges is not cost effective or no specific indexation method has been otherwise approved, agencies are required to annually apply the Government-endorsed indexation factor to their fees and charges. The Government-endorsed indexation factor is 1.8 per cent for 2020-21.

The *Ambulance Service Act 1991* provides for fees and charges to be prescribed by regulation. The *Ambulance Service Regulation 2015* sets out fees and charges for ambulance services such as emergency and non-emergency transport, ambulance attendance and for the treatment of a person by an ambulance officer.

The main objective of the *Ambulance Service (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020* (Amendment Regulation) is to index the fees and charges prescribed in the Ambulance Service Regulation in accordance with Government policy.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Amendment Regulation increases fees and charges set out in the Ambulance Service Regulation by the Government-endorsed indexation factor of 1.8 per cent. In accordance with the *Queensland Government Principles for Fees and Charges*, a rounding policy has been applied. The rounding policy was developed in consultation with Queensland Treasury.

The increased fees and charges for the *Ambulance Service Regulation 2015* take effect on 1 July 2020.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of the authorising law.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

No inconsistencies with the policy objectives of other legislation have been identified.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The Amendment Regulation is the only effective means of achieving the policy objectives.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Amendment Regulation will ensure that the fees and charges prescribed in the *Ambulance Service Regulation* retain their value over time and accurately reflect the cost of providing services. The Amendment Regulation will not significantly increase the financial burden on the community or stakeholders.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles, as set out in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

The amendments were self-assessed by Queensland Health, in accordance with the *Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation*, as being excluded from further regulatory impact assessment on the basis that the amendments align fees and charges with a Government-endorsed indexation factor (exclusion category 'h'). Therefore, consultation with the Office of Best Practice Regulation, Queensland Productivity Commission, was not required.

As the amendments are consistent with Queensland Government policy requiring fees and charges to be indexed annually, no consultation was undertaken with external stakeholders.

Notes on provisions

Short title

Clause 1 provides the short title of the regulation.

Commencement

Clause 2 provides for the regulation to commence on 1 July 2020.

Regulation amended

Clause 3 states the regulation amends the *Ambulance Service Regulation 2015*.

Amendment of sch 1, s 1 (Fees Payable)

Clause 4 amends the fees schedule to reflect the indexation rate for 2020.