

Annexure: Ambulance Victoria Motorcycle Paramedic Unit Evaluation: Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Summary of findings:

Overall, the motorcycle paramedic units (MPUs) played an important role in reducing response times, improving availability of ambulances and lowering costs. However, their limitations mean they can only be an adjunct rather than a substitute service.

The MPUs appear to be good value for money in that they cost substantially less to run than traditional stretcher ambulance. While the utilisation rates for MPUs are lower than traditional ambulances, this has been increasing each year. Most incidents attended by an MPU were in the City of Melbourne or City of Port Phillip.

The majority of incidents (80%) attended being Priority 0 or Code 1. MPUs have lower (better) response times than traditional ambulances and was the only platform attending 90% of emergency cases within 15 minutes. The MPU quick response also enabled an at-the-site triage service, meaning that stretcher ambulances could be cancelled where not required. This further freed resources for deployment to other cases.

The evaluation found that Ambulance Victoria had put in place strong systems and guidelines to manage the additional Occupation Health and Safety risks associated with the MPUs, although it was noted that some of the training could be improved with regard to maximising MPU performance.

Summary of recommendations:

Based on the findings, it was recommended that the MPUs should be retained as a permanent fixture in the Ambulance Victoria suite to provide flexibility for responses particularly in the inner city. Further, the current protocols that primarily allocate Priority 0 and Code 1 to MPUs should continue due to the strong response times that complement and alleviate existing resource allocation.

At this stage, it is not necessary to expand the number of MPUs operating however this would need to be reconsidered at a later date as utilisation continues to grow. That said, consideration should be given to purchasing a third MPU to facilitate training and serve as a back-up unit if an MPU is out of operation.