

Proposed Ambulance Victoria Branch

Overview & Location

Ambulance Victoria (AV) responds to over 1,300 emergency calls every day across Victoria. The location of each Ambulance branch is carefully selected and evaluated against a number of driving factors to ensure the best possible coverage is provided for the community to deliver the best Ambulance Service.

In order to maintain necessary response times within the community, a new ambulance station has been proposed on the corner of Portobello Drive and Sustainable Drive.

Estimated delivery of the facility is currently anticipated in late 2023 and is subject to relevant authority approvals.

How is an AV branch used?

AV branches serve as a respite area for paramedics between call outs, a garage to house and manage Ambulance vehicles, as well as an administrative base for Paramedics and the Team Manager.

The types of activities that are generally undertaken include:

- Administrative tasks associated with management of the branch and patients that have been transported to and from hospital (patients are never brought back to AV branches);
- Restocking of Ambulance vehicles with medical consumables;
- Acceptance of deliveries by contracted agencies of medical consumables, linen, general supplies, etc;
- Collection by contracted agencies for medical and general waste.

It is not uncommon for an Ambulance team to be away from the site attending to call outs for a large portion of a shift and returning, in some cases, only at the end of the shift. The rest of the time, the teams are dispatched whilst on the road or to and from hospitals.

A 24-hour team consists of one vehicle and two paramedics who work on a 10/14 or 12/12 hour shift roster.



Artist's impression only. Subject to change.

Noise

When occupied, a branch generates a similar amount of noise as a normal domestic residence. When paramedics are present, their usual tasks include attending to administrative duties, restocking or cleaning of Ambulance vehicles, resting or attending to their own personal care.

Lighting

Lighting for the front of the building intends to provide adequate vision for personal safety and identification for staff. AV avoids any high level or permanent overnight illumination. Car parking lighting is generally via low light bollards or similar lighting.

Vehicle Sirens

AV has approximately 100 established branches across Melbourne and many of these are located in residential areas.

AV paramedics are well aware that sirens – or the prospect of the use of sirens – can be distressing to the community and therefore adopt an attitude of caution, thoughtfulness and respect towards the neighbourhood.

In contrast to some Emergency Services, AV paramedics are not required to respond to an emergency with lights and sirens activated, the lights can work independently of the sirens. Paramedics will generally only use one or both when the conditions pertain to the safe vehicle egress and public safety.

When practical and when safety permits, paramedics may use vehicles lights only. The vehicle siren is used as a warning device in emergency circumstances to comply with road rules and AV compliance for operating an emergency vehicle. It is anticipated that use of vehicle lights and sirens is necessary only on an infrequent basis when exiting from a branch. At night when traffic volumes are lower, the need to use sirens is rare.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed Ambulance Victoria branch please contact Stockland call centre on **13 52 63**.



The proposed ambulance branch proposed for Highlands as at November 2020 is subject to planning approval and services and location may change due to future circumstances.