# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 3357**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 36)**

**Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What (a) is the ambulance-to-population ratio in George in the Western Cape and (b) plans have been put in place to provide more ambulances to George and other areas in the Southern Cape area? **NW4162E**

**REPLY:**

1. In the Western Cape resources are deployed based on District and Sub-District level rather than Local Municipalities. In this case they deploy resources to the Garden Route District. The population for the Garden Route District is 622 000. This equates to 0.3 ambulances per 10 000 population. The ambulance allocation per sub-district is as follows:

George 3

Knysna 2

Plettenberg Bay 2

Uniondale 1

Dysselsdorp 2

Oudtshoorn 2

Calitzdorp 1

Ladismith 1

Heidelberg 1

Riversdale 2

Mosselbay 2

1. The reality is that without a significant increase in the budget for compensation of employees the Western Cape province is unable to increase the number of ambulances. The Province is however, deploying several other initiatives to augment service delivery. These include:

* Community-orientated Emergency Care underpinned by the Emergency First Aid Programme
* Augmentation of provincial services with contracted private ambulance service

END.