

Submission  
No 182

**THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE NSW  
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**Name:** Ms Jan Thomas

**Date received:** 21/07/2008

---

Dear Sir/Madam

I live in Mooney Mooney and regularly travel on the notorious F3. Should I ever need to be rescued following a motor vehicle accident I would not want to be cut out of my car by a **lay person** with only a **basic first aid certificate**. I would like to think that in such a predicament the person rescuing me would be competent to **stabilize my condition**, as a preliminary to retrieving me. **No other rescue service is able to do this.**

**Rescue** is an essential part of every Ambulance Officer's mandate, and as such is central to Ambulance core business. Every ambulance officer has to be able to retrieve patients from impossible places. Extricating patients is what they do.

It took **four ambulance officers** to get my **completely immobilized, totally-unable-to-bend six-foot husband** off the floor and out of the bedroom through narrow passages and around tight corners. Non-medical rescuers may be competent to get a cat out of a drain, but I was glad those who were manouevring my husband were also **able to monitor his condition.**

Injured adventurers who fall over cliffs, get stuck in caves or stranded in canyons need a rescuer who is able to **stabilize them**, otherwise the rescuer risks **compounding the medical problem**. In such cases, the result could be **para- or quadraplegia**, causing a lifetime of disability and discomfort to the patient, and massive cost to the Government.

I call for an urgent reassessment of the current efforts to hand Ambulance Rescue over to non-medical personnel.

Jan Thomas