

Medical help - at a sprint

A NEW type of ambulance service will help reduce waiting times for patients by sending a single rapid-response paramedic.

Following the success of a pilot project, the Single Paramedic Response Intervention, SPRINT, service now will be part of daily operations.

Chief executive Ray Creen said three all-wheel drive SPRINT cars were used in the metropolitan area in the pilot program. Response times were reduced by 1.5 per cent to just under 7½ minutes.

"Demand for ambulance services continues to increase year on year," he said.