

Information for MPs

The NSW Paramedic Death and Disability 'Award' was introduced in 2008 to provide Paramedic and their families financial protection in the case of serious injury or death. It has recently been cut to save costs. See below.

Can't work as a Paramedic again (e.g. Back Injury)	Current NSW D&D	Ministry of Health IP Scheme (2 yrs IP)	NSW Police Scheme (7 yrs IP)
20 years of age	\$685 642	\$123 487	\$432 127
35 years of age	\$516 907	\$123 487	\$432 127
50 years of age	\$253 515	\$123 487	\$432 127

Can't work in any occupation again (e.g. loss of sight/limbs etc.)	Current NSW D&D	Ministry of Health IP Scheme (2 yrs IP)	NSW Police Scheme (7 yrs IP)
20 years of age	\$699 635	\$123 487	\$432 127
35 years of age	\$699 635	\$123 487	\$432 127
50 years of age	\$559 708	\$123 487	\$432 127

(Figures based on base paramedic [P1] pay)

NSW Government is currently providing a fair level of protection for NSW Police.

Paramedics are simply seeking parity with the level of cover we had and is currently provided to NSW Police. We don't want to be injured. We don't want to have to use the Death & Disability Income Protection Scheme.

The outgoing Death & Disability Award

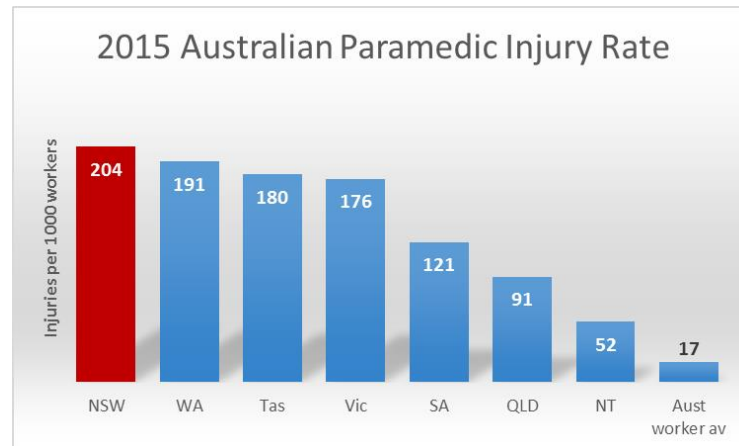
Paramedics understood the importance of protection for injury given the uncontrolled nature of our working environment and having seen many of their colleagues and their families pushed to financial hardship post career ending injuries. In 2008 Paramedics finally secured, through our Award, a protection scheme that provided both for death and injury that was comparable to schemes other emergency service workers already had been receiving. The Death & Disability Scheme came in as part of general productivity and wage bargaining. At the time Government agreed to pay 3.6% of salaries towards the scheme with a 1.8% co-payment by paramedics.

The nature of paramedical work in NSW

Paramedics are health professionals who provide rapid response, emergency medical assessment, treatment and care in the out-of-hospital environment. These responses are in uncontrolled situations and in all climatic conditions. The nature of the work often requires heavy lifting in confined spaces in awkward situations, which increases the risk of manual handling injuries. We are put at risk in highly emotional charged scenarios often where drugs, alcohol and violence have played a significant role. We are there to support the victims and provide life saving care and medical support to the community. This means many of us either can't find an insurer who will cover us, or the cost of premiums are prohibitive.

NSW Government is overseeing Australia's worst Paramedic injury rate.

NSW has one of the lowest Paramedic to community ratios coupled with one of the highest utilisation rates in Australia. We believe this under resourcing of Paramedics directly correlates to NSW Paramedics having the highest injury rates in Australia. NSW Paramedics respond to approximately 1 million cases per year any of which can lead to a career ending injury. The national injury rates for Paramedic is 157 per 1000 and unfortunately NSW tops the charts with 204 per 1000 that is 1 in 5 Paramedics will be injured on the job.



Comparison of old scheme with incoming scheme

The old scheme is comparable to those being provided to other NSW emergency service agencies such as NSW Police.

The incoming Death & Disability income protection scheme will see an over 80% reduction in the benefits for Paramedics who sustain a career ending injury. (The death benefit remains the same.)

Paramedics are not seeking a pay rise. We are trying to ensure that our families have some form of peace of mind every time we walk out the door to respond.

What we want

Like the Government provided for Police, we want *temporary* extra funding to be made available to the incoming scheme to provide for similar cover to what the Police currently receive.

We want the Government to work with Paramedics to reduce the injury rate and decrease the need for the D&D Scheme which will help drive down the cost of protection. This has worked in NSW Police where we believe the cost to government is reducing.

Paramedics are seeking your help to ensure the NSW Government provides adequate protection for frontline emergency responders. We would like you to speak to the Premier/ Treasurer and Minister for Health on behalf of paramedics in your electorate and ask them to provide the extra funding required for fair paramedic protections.