

West Gosford HealthShare PTOs take safety-related action

PTO members in West Gosford have voted to take action for the safety of themselves, their patients, and the broader public in defiance to an apparent change in HealthShare's fatigue management policy.

The previous policy was that if a crew is unable to be cribbed during the crib window they must be given a fatigue break of no more than 30 minutes but not less than 20 minutes as soon as possible.

The crib break is an industrial right. However, it also serves as one of the only mid shift fatigue mitigation strategies available to the employer. If HealthShare fails to provide you with your industrial right, they still have a WHS obligation to give you a break as soon as possible (usually as soon as you have transferred care of the current patient).

It seems that HealthShare are cutting corners on safety as we have heard that the fatigue break is no longer a certainty.

On that basis the delegates West Gosford ran a vote of HSU PTO members and they resolved to take the following action:

If a crew is not cribbed by the end of the crib window, that crew will immediately take a 30-minute fatigue break at the nearest public hospital. If they have a patient on board they will take the 30-minute fatigue break as soon as they have transferred the care of that patient.

We all know that fatigue is a major factor in road accidents. If the employer will not keep its staff and the public safe by providing breaks, then it's up to HSU members to keep themselves safe.

If you are in another HealthShare PTS area and would like to take the same action, either run a vote yourself or call our Ambulance Division Organiser, Peter Morris, on 0419 693 358.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD