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Government attempts to break WWCC impasse with interesting 'provisional' offer

As you know, ADHSU has been calling for a boycott of the WWCC fee since we found out paramedics were going to be forced to pay the \$80 to continue working. Our biggest protest is that here in NSW, it's illegal for unions to achieve an allowance to cover the cost of this or any other new cost put on members. We know an allowance is illegal, because we and the other public-sector unions challenged it in court and lost. All because of the unfair government sector wages regulation.

Further to this is paramedic registration. The paramedic registration fee is likely to be expensive and will be in two parts: the yearly fee payable to remain registered; and an application fee, which is a one off for all newly registered health professionals including paramedics.

We have been considering a challenge to the annual paramedic registration fee. It's compulsory, that is, you aren't allowed to work unless you are a registered paramedic, and once again, we can't claim an allowance in the award to cover registration costs because of the unfair wages regulation.

Why are we talking about paramedic registration at the same time as talking about WWCC? Because government contacted ADHSU with the following provisional offer to break the current WWCC fee standoff:

Subject to ADHSU membership and Treasury approval, government will cover the full cost of the paramedic registration application fee. The fee has not been announced by AHPRA yet (other professions' app fees range from \$90-\$400 odd). In return they are asking us to cease encouraging the WWCC fee boycott. We've been promised that the paramedic registration application fee will be more than \$80, so this will offset the cost of the WWCC fee. Government has also been speaking about a high probability that there will be a significant enhancement of paramedic numbers in this budget.

It's an interesting offer. We always knew that if we won the WWCC fee debate government would need a face saver. This is their face saver.

The question is, do we continue the WWCC fee boycott and fight to the end; or do we accept this offer and get on with the main battle, leading the NSW Public Sector in a fight to get rid of the unfair government sector wages regulation once and for all?

It's your choice as a financial member of ADHSU. [Please vote by clicking on this link](#). We will of course follow the direction of the majority of our financial members. If members vote yes and accept the 'offer', government will then go through its own processes and formalise the offer. In the meantime, do not respond to NSW's latest bullying tactics. You are not required to let them know if you have the check, or intend on getting the check, until 1 July. If you vote yes, do not pay the WWCC until the government formalises the offer. Voting closes at 1700 on Tuesday 5 June.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD