



Newsletter: 297/2018
Date: 1 June 2018
Distribution: All ambulance members
Contact: Stuart Hatter



Government formalises provisional offer

Government has formalised the provisional offer regarding the WWCC and the one-off application fee for AHPRA registration, as presented on Tuesday by the Health Minister. Please find attached a letter from Minister Hazzard confirming this. Voting remains open on this important issue, so if you haven't yet done so, please [vote at this link](#). Voting closes at 1700 on Tuesday 5 June.

The Minister discusses another important matter in this letter, that is, the need for a significant enhancement of paramedic numbers. As you can see, he remains noncommittal, however we are hopeful that all the campaigning efforts of our members to date on the issue of paramedic numbers will translate into something significant.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', written over a white background.

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research

Gerard Hayes
Secretary HSU NSW/ACT/QLD
Via email

1 June 2018

Dear Gerard,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet Health Services Union (HSU) delegates on Tuesday and discuss matters of concern to your membership, the NSW Government and the community in finding a resolution to the current situation where a portion of the paramedic workforce have not applied for a Working with Children's Check (WWCC).

I appreciated the opportunity to directly address HSU delegates across the state about the proposal which has come from recent discussions between the HSU and myself.

While I appreciate the HSU has strongly advocated that paramedics have concerns about paying the \$80 WWCC fee (which covers them for five years) I note that there are hundreds of thousands of public sector teachers, nurses and other workers who have already paid their fees, and continue to do so, in order to protect children across NSW.

The NSW Government is not prepared to re-open that policy as there is a strong community recognition of the need for protection of children.

However I also note that you have raised with me the impact on currently employed paramedics of the national registration costs which will be payable on or about 1 October 2018.

As you acknowledged, paramedics have long supported national registration and the capacity to therefore work in any state or territory. The national registration will require a one-off administration fee and an annual registration fee. As discussed, those fees will be set federally in due course.

As you are aware, I offered to delegates at the meeting a proposal that the NSW Government would pay the one-off application fee in exchange for paramedics acknowledging that they need to pay their WWCC fee, and to continue to pay that fee during their working career.

The advice I have from the Ministry of Health is that it is estimated the one-off application fee for paramedic registration will be \$190. I note in your letter, and at the meeting with delegates, there was concern that the application fee could be either higher, or lower, than \$190.

Given the frank exchange of views expressed at the meeting and in your subsequent letter, I have discussed these matters with the Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, who is extremely supportive of paramedics.

I can confirm that, in consideration of support by paramedics to pay their WWCC, the NSW Government will:

- pay a guaranteed minimum of \$190 for the one-off application fee for currently employed paramedics
- pay the total one-off application fee if the application fee is higher than \$190
- pay that differential towards the first year's registration fee if the application fee is lower than \$190 (this would only be a one-off instance, and would not apply to paramedics employed in the future other than those that would be employed in financial year 2018-19).

I note your letter also asked for the one-off application payment to be extended to all new paramedics employed into the future.

The NSW Government is not able to give such a commitment, however I can confirm that all new paramedics employed during the 2018-19 financial year will be covered by this agreement. I note that it is a condition of employment that all new employees have a valid WWCC.

The above proposal will require paramedics to apply for their WWCC and notify ambulance management by 14 June of their clearance number provided by the Office of the Children's Guardian or their application number and their receipt for payment number.

Regarding other points in your letter:

- I will discuss with Ambulance and the Ministry your proposal for an operational review, and advise you of the outcome.
- As to your request for 800 additional paramedics to be employed I can assure you that I have been in close discussions with the Treasurer about the needs of the growing NSW population and the community's access to a responsive ambulance service which also safeguards the health and wellbeing of paramedics. The Treasurer and I are actively considering the required number of paramedics.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hazzard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Hazzard MP