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WWCC vote results and next steps

Our week-long vote on the offer made by Minister Hazzard to ADHSU delegates on Tuesday 29 closed with the following results: [a total of 918 members voted with 726 voting for \(79.08%\) and 192 against \(20.92%\) the offer.](#) (Offer [here](#)).

How did we get here and what are the next steps?

The Minister contacted ADHSU and asked us to assemble the state delegates to meet him on 29 May. The state delegates representing each sub-branch heard firsthand his offer to break the WWCC fee impasse.

The state delegates informed the Minister that as a grass roots Union, no deal would be accepted if voted down by the membership and also the Minister needed to provide it in [writing](#).

Delegates then put it out to a vote to members for seven days (results at the link above). As the results were in the positive – that is, to accept the government's offer – ADHSU will now inform government and begin arrangements for the eventual registration application fee to be covered.

This means between now and June 30, if you haven't already got one, you should apply and pay for a WWCC. Note that the Minister threw in a false deadline in the offer. He said our members need to get the check and inform management by June 14. We did not agree to this deadline. The law gives you until June 30 so go at a time that is most convenient to yourself between now and the 30th.

While this result is not everything that we were fighting for, ADHSU members can be proud that their collective efforts have moved a government to make an acceptable offer. ADHSU members [stood up to this from the start](#) and took the courageous decision to dare a government to stand them down or pay the fee. Again, this offer goes some of the way to achieving that goal.

While this battle has led to government covering the WWCC fee for paramedics into the medium term (around 12 years of WWCC fees), we have not won the war. The war cannot be won until we get rid of the unfair government sector wages regulation that has been holding back NSW public sector workers for 7 years and beyond. If we get rid of the regulation we have a chance of winning an award allowance to cover the cost of the WWCC fee and the Registration fee.

We are teaming up with a Unions NSW coordinated campaign to take the fight to the public to build enough support to get rid of the wages regulation and replace it with something sensible. We know we can win this fight because our National Council of Ambulance Union colleagues [AEA Victoria](#) changed a one-term government on one issue: paramedics deserve the ability to run a work value case. They pioneered liquid chalk and other campaigning techniques in their highly regarded [Code Red campaign](#). It was their advice that led to the Zero One Code One liquid chalk campaign.

It's time we knock off the regulation, and ADHSU is leading the rest of the NSW public sector union movement to achieve that goal. Watch this space.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD