



Newsletter: 340/2018  
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Contact: Your HSU Organiser



## Extra paramedics and professional wages

ADHSU members have after years of campaigning seen the NSW Government announce an extra 700 paramedics and 50 control staff over the next four years. These resources should see an easing of the unsustainable work intensity faced by many paramedics day and night, as well as lead to reduced response times.

ADHSU believes it is vital that the enhancements are placed in the areas crying out for them. Each Sub Branch should decide what they need in terms of resources (if any) and be ready to make the case internally and externally. This includes the Education Sub-Branch, who need an immediate injection of Educators and CTOs to cope with the 200 extra paramedics being skilled up on top of the usual yearly intake.

However, as we've said for a while now, the real battle that every NSW public servant faces is getting rid of the unfair [public sector wages regulation](#). It was brought in by Labor as a policy but placed into law by the current Government. Both sides support its existence in one form or another and it needs to go!

As you know, while the wages regulation is on the books it is illegal to finally professionalise paramedics' wages. It's also illegal to achieve long standing claims for better conditions such as more annual leave (including for non-paramedic control centre officers), an allowance for the WWCC or Registration costs.

ADHSU has been quietly working in the background with other NSW public sector unions to start a spirited campaign to get rid of the wages regulation. In fact, we have already started messaging the public on the issue. Have a look at this [Sydney Nine News report](#) about last week's announcement of the 750 extra Ambulance staff. You'll see that even though we were in a joint press conference with the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister about extra paramedics, we pivoted away from the resources messaging onto one about the wages regulation.

This campaign will be a major issue that all paramedics will need to support. This may take a significant time to win. It also means we have to structure the campaign strategically, so we can accept the yearly 2.5% pay rise with one hand, while fighting to get rid of the wages cap with the other.

So what do we need to get rid of the Wages Regulation? Active members, and a strong collective of paramedics willing to take up the fight for a fair wage for the increasing difficult work they undertake. ADHSU is calling on all members to get active. If your work colleagues are not already members, then get them to join the fight at [www.hsu.asn.au/join](http://www.hsu.asn.au/join).

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', written in a cursive style.

Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD