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Beleaguered CE says sorry

The Chief Executive slipped out of the country on his Winter break the day after making an impassioned apology on behalf of NSW Government.

He essentially said sorry for doing nothing to address the sometimes toxic culture that exists in NSW. He also reannounced some programmes and other measures that are being brought in with the \$30 million ADHSU paramedics won during the courageous Zero One - Code One liquid chalk campaign. Members can feel very proud that their efforts during 2016 has led to programmes that have a real chance of making a difference to workers' lives.

Despite the CE's announcement, we are nowhere near ready to announce 'mission accomplished' just yet. For example, one of the announcements included employing internal Clinical Psychologists, despite 70% of respondents to an ADHSU survey saying they would not use internal psychological services for confidentiality reasons. Indeed, the CE made this announcement without clarifying how, if at all, he intends to ensure our members' use of the internal service does not find its way into workers compensation disputes via a NSW subpoena. We will continue to ask him for assurances in this regard and inform members accordingly... when he gets back from leave.

Now that the CE is in the mood for saying sorry, we look forward to a heart-felt apology for an organisation that continues to allow selection decisions to be about who you know, not what you know.

We also want an apology for the lack of action on the physical injury front. We have seen no proposals whatsoever on the lifting equipment that more than \$7 million has been set aside to purchase. We have been asking the CE for something in this space since February last year. Shoulders, back and knee injuries continue to form around 60% of all injuries in NSW, yet we hear nothing. NSW should say sorry for continuing to lead the country with an appalling injury rate of one injury per five paramedics.

NSW should say sorry for injuring one of our Aeromedical members on Sunday (he injured his back lifting a patient) and still not contacting him as of today (Friday) to arrange treatment. Our member's line management have been very supportive, however the Injury Management team have not returned the phone calls of a paramedic wanting to get back on the job as soon as possible. Unfortunately, this story will not surprise many members.

We've tried to stay positive and collaborative with NSW while trying to change the safety culture, but unfortunately the organisation's leadership continue to struggle to deliver meaningful change that will address serious areas of concern. We will not allow this from now on.

Stuart Hatter
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