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## ADHSU delegation to ACTU Congress

As the ACTU affiliated ambulance union in NSW, ADHSU is off to participate in the ACTU Congress being held in Brisbane over the next couple of days.

The ACTU has embarked on the 'Change the Rules' campaign, that has at its core the belief that the industrial and other rules in Australia have tipped too far in favour of the employer (including when government is the employer).

Flat wages growth, terrible job security, and under employment are all symptoms of having a set of laws designed to restrict workers' right to combine to increase bargaining power.

The HSU has two main areas in the Federal system, Aged Care and Private Health. We also have a growing private sector in the non-emergency transport space (and a small but rapidly growing private paramedicine sector). Strategically we need to ensure these areas – in particular non-emergency transport and private health – are well organised and have good pay, conditions, and patient standards, otherwise our public health and Ambulance membership will be under threat of outsourcing to cheaper labour.

There is one other reason that ADHSU is taking this Congress seriously. We are going to move an amendment that will see the Change the Rules campaign include an attack on the NSW Government Sector Wages Regulation (rather than just messaging around federal workplace laws etc). Wages will never grow at the pace the economy needs as long as it remains illegal to seek an increase to pay and conditions beyond 2.5%.

Stuart Hatter

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