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750 extra staff: NSW sets up fake consultation process to fool the community

ADHSU met for the second time this week with NSW Ambulance to 'consult' on the State-Wide Enhancement Program (or SWEP).

Yet again, the Service displays a misunderstanding of the consultation process when instituting significant change in the workplace. Instead of seeking feedback on where the extra resources should go, they have told us where they'll go. They've confessed they won't be listening to us or anyone else for that matter as their decision is final, even if the decision seems confused and ludicrous (for example, Hamilton station is receiving an enhancement, but Rutherford gets nothing).

What we know so far

Metro will receive 84 FTE, and they will be utilised to prop up the failing Superstation experiment rather than being placed in areas of demand or growth. This would alleviate the requirements on staff at those 'Superstations' responding long distances or being fluid deployed for area cover. There will be seven additional modules (12 FTE).

The Service's Metro modelling also requires additional rosters of shorter shift length to cover 'demand periods'. They haven't elaborated on who will be working these non 4x5 rosters.

The Service refused to commit to ensuring any enhanced roster deployments will be calculated in the daily deployments or maintained.

Regional communities may actually be worse off, with a possible reduction in daily deployments under the Service's modelling. Incredibly, response times are NOT one of the Service's parameters in Regional areas unlike Metro, resulting in a two-tier health system. This further entrenches the NSW notion that your postcode determines health outcomes.

As expected, there seems to be a direct correlation between the reduction of overtime payments and deployments. Is it any wonder that NSW continues to have the second-worst response times in the country while Ambulance is led by executives who value spreadsheets more than service delivery?

We'll monitor the situation over the next two weeks. If NSW and the Government continue to push ahead with deployment planning without consultation, we will have to seek the community's view on where the resources they fund through the tax system are delivered.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD