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750 extra staff: NSWA waits for approval to consult

ADHSU delegates met the Service on Wednesday in another attempt to start the consultation process regarding the deployment of the extra 750 staff allocated to NSW in this year's state budget.

ADHSU has made it clear we will not participate in a process that our members have little or no chance of influencing. That is, we will not give them the opportunity to tick the 'consulted with staff' box unless that consultation is genuine. Last time we met ([see related newsletter](#)), we made it clear that they needed to provide us with their plan for all four years of deployments (currently they are only telling us year one), and they had to give ADHSU members a fair opportunity to change their mind on where and when the extra staff would go.

One month on and they are still waiting for their political masters to get back to them on our requests. However, NSW admitted they only asked for permission to provide details of year one and two and said there is no way they are going to let frontline paramedics have a say in where best to deploy extra resources. They truly believe they get it right 100% of the time because they use a 'sophisticated methodology' to decide where to deploy resources. They actually said that.

These are very same people who oversee the country's second worst response times, who are [criticised by the Auditor General](#) for failing to have an 'overall strategy' when introducing demand related initiatives, and that 'individual initiatives lack clear goals and performance targets...'. In short, it sounds like the Auditor General agrees with us.

The question is, what do we do? Do we participate in a shonky consultation process where the employer admits we have no chance of influencing? Or do we start a public campaign that may have a chance to influence where the numbers go (or it may not)?

Again, NSW is currently waiting on a response from their political masters on how much they can tell us.

We'll survey members on the question of campaigning or not after NSW provides us with its final decision on the type of consultation and information that will be provided moving forward.

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