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Wagga Wagga Enhancements may close stations

ADHSU delegates attended the IRC last Friday regarding staffing enhancements that will commence in Wagga Wagga on the 23rd February. The date of the 23rd is a government commitment made during the recent byelection in Wagga Wagga.

As you know NSW executive will jump through all sorts of hoops to ensure they look good to their political masters and the public.

ADHSU argued about the knock-on effect of meeting the February 23rd deadline is that the surrounding stations would be drained of the required number of paramedics who chose to transfer into Wagga Wagga. This is something we have been pointing out for months.

ADHSU argued that the Service were robbing Peter to pay Paul to fill the enhanced Wagga Wagga roster. NSW argued that the surrounding stations would be covered under their normal practices for filling holes through normal deployment practices which the IRC allowed.

The IRC agreed with the ADHSU position that the Wagga Wagga enhanced roster fell outside of the normal situation and would need to be filled as of the date of the 15th February to ensure service delivery.

ADHSU also expressed further concerns that this will lead to paramedics in soon to be depleted stations would be exposed to a risk to their health and safety by being forced to work alone.

ADHSU would like to remind all members that if they identify a shortfall that will expose them to be rostered single for the shift or the on-call period that they are to immediately raise the issue with their line manager.

You should try to give them as much notice as possible, i.e. if you look at the roster and in 3 days' time there is a vacancy you should engage your subbranch and the managers at this point. Do not wait until the day of the shortfall.

If the line manager is unable to fill the short fall on the day then the member should inform the manager that they want to be put on alternate duties or removed from the shift or on-call period. It is NSW's responsibility to keep these stations open and service the community.

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