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State election status quo: time to remove the wages policy

NSW paramedics (P1s) are currently the lowest paid in the country. NSW was the second lowest until the charity-run WA Service gave its staff a modest pay rise.

Given NSW is around the 3rd biggest service in the world, has a \$1B budget (thanks in part to the campaigning efforts of ADHSU members), and the highest trained paramedic workforce in the country – backed up by equally talented and dedicated office and other support staff – it's a disgrace that NSW pays its paramedics the worst in Australia. Yes, NSW Paramedics are truly the highest trained, lowest paid.

We can sit back and blame the unfair government sector wages regulation (that holds public servants to no more than 2.5% pay increases) and watch as the country's best and brightest change states, countries, or even worse, leave the profession. Or – we fight. We fight until we have the wages regulation removed once and for all.

We haven't met an ADHSU delegate who doesn't want to fight. We have also been surveying NSW staff, including potential ADHSU members, at the grass roots level – and they too want to fight.

Will we win? That's not a certainty. However, we know that if we fight there's a chance of winning. If we sit back and do nothing, there is no chance.

The good news is that the NSW Government is already aware of ADHSU members' ability to stand their ground during a campaign: from daring mass stand downs by boycotting WWCC fees, to mass civil disobedience in decorating ambulances with liquid chalk during the Zero One – Code One campaign. They know that once we start we'll never give up.

Keep an eye out for the survey going around stations and control centres, put your hand up to be active in this campaign, and ask others to join ADHSU. NSW paramedics and other staff will continue to be the highest trained and lowest paid in the country until we win.

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