



Newsletter: 310/2018
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It's time for Paramedics to Take 5 to Survive

The Ministry of Health are yet to rescind the make ready time KPI and winter is coming.

The make ready time KPI of 20 mins was introduced by the Ministry of Health last year and members have been doing well to ignore it. The recent work instruction allows paramedics who require a longer MRT to be taken offline to clean a decontaminated vehicle, debrief/utilise staff support services, deal with mechanical faults or be assessed for a workplace injury.

While we commend NSW Ambulance for allowing paramedics to be marked 'out of service', members have asked questions about whether this will be sending false data to the Ministry of Health. **ADHSU members' fears are correct. NSW Ambulance are sending false data to the Ministry of Health by marking an ambulance simply cleaning up past the 20 minute make ready time 'out of service'**. This allows NSW Ambulance to look good to the Ministry of Health and therefore the KPI will continue to be used and potentially even reduced.

As with our last Take 5 to Survive newsletter, **ADHSU are calling on our members to ignore the MRT work instruction and to Take 5 To Survive.**

If paramedics are 'off stretcher' for more than 20 minutes and they require a toilet break, to fill up their water bottles, to have a quick snack due to no meal break, or to simply gather their thoughts after a difficult job, they should reply to management and the dispatcher over the air with:

"I'm taking 5 to survive"

This doesn't have to be 5 minutes, it may be 10 minutes or as long as paramedics need to **survive their shift.**

Paramedics should, however, always do what they have always done – clear for an urgent job if ready and available. However, clearing at 20 mins just for the sake of a KPI is a big ask for a workforce that already suffers immensely from the workload as well as traumatising events.

If you get the opportunity, show your solidarity with a photo holding the I'm Taking 5 to Survive poster. Send your photos to 0499 919 355.

[Link to taking 5 to survive sign](#) (pls print out A4 and in colour if possible).

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD