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IRC directs NSWA cease needlessly responding paramedics single

ADHSU representatives were in the IRC on Tuesday for another hearing in our ongoing dispute regarding roster outputs and paramedic and patient safety.

It is the ADHSU Council's long-standing view that core rosters should always be filled to ensure there are enough paramedics responding to calls to serve the community. This also aims to reduce work intensity and avoids paramedics responding alone (unless in a designated single officer role such as bikes, DOMs etc.).

Government has not always shared our view and will split crews, utilise single paramedics for area cover and/or not pair up paramedics within a reasonable timeframe, exposing them to additional risk.

Again, this leaves the public without the ambulance crews they have been allocated and paid for, and it often leaves paramedics in the difficult position where they are asked to jeopardise their own safety by responding alone.

ADHSU delegates were successful in arguing the case before the IRC on Tuesday where the Commissioner made a recommendation that requires NSWA to **'issue a directive to regional management – that until the matter comes back before me in 5 weeks' time – every possible step is taken to ensure two officer crews are deployed to all medical emergencies and trauma cases'**. ([Full recommendation here](#))

This leaves a very small window open where a paramedic may respond alone but only if the DDCO has determined that there is no possible way to pair that paramedic up. The Chief Superintendent must, according to government policy, also ensure that it is safe to send a paramedic single to the job.

The IRC also directed ADHSU to gather information on each and every occasion our members have been left single or are tasked to a case single. If you are left single for more than one hour in any shift please text **0428 138 234** the date, time, station and any relevant comment so we can report back to the Commissioner how often the unsafe practice of paramedics being left single occurs.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD