



Newsletter: 357/2018
Date: 31 May 2019
Distribution: All ambulance members
Contact: Stuart Hatter



ADHSU forms Emergency Services Worker Alliance

Late yesterday the ADHSU received notice from the APA of their intention to run a Major Industrial Case in the Industrial Relations Commission. We don't normally talk about other unions, however there is a point of difference that our members need to consider.

APA appear to seek a major industrial case to fight for an above 2.5% increase within the confines of the unfair government wages reg. This reg makes it illegal for the IRC to award an increase above and beyond the 2.5% increase without trade-offs (including savings made by becoming higher skilled).

While we can see why the APA executive are going down this path, it's not the path that we would go down. There are a number of major concerns with that path. One, any increase must be offset by trade-offs in conditions or savings made from increased skills and competence. That is, the pay rise is self-funded by members. Two, the current case law mandates that workers forego the 2.5% pay rise while the courts are determining the sorts of claims APA is making. That means ADHSU members will not be granted the normal 2.5% pay rise this year or any other year while this goes on. And there is no guarantee that the IRC will actually grant anything over 2.5%, including backpay.

What's the ADHSU Plan for professional wages and getting rid of the wages policy?

We plan to put enough pressure on the Liberal National NSW Government to ensure they relax the wages regulation for emergency services workers. How? We have formed an alliance with all of the other emergency services unions – that is, the Police Association, the NSW Fire Brigade Employees Union, the Public Sector Union (Prison Officers) and us. The campaign is called the **Hold the Line Coalition**. None of the other emergency services unions believe it's in our members' interest to launch an IRC Major Industrial Case because we know that the law is stacked against us. Instead, the Hold The Line campaign is going to appeal directly to public seeking their support to change the wages regulation once and for all.

If we relax the wages reg we can achieve professional wages without any trade-offs.

Just like the Zero One – Code One campaign, our activity will pick up in intensity over a short period of time. Keep a look out for campaign activities and make sure you great your fellow police, fire, and correctional services brother and sister with a handshake knowing we'll win this together.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD