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Contact: Your HSU Organiser



Executive Directors too busy to discuss major safety failure

Another plant room door has crashed to the ground overnight, this time it was a Sydney Super Station. If anyone was under the door when it fell it probably would have resulted in a death.

We contacted the Executive Director of People and Culture, who we believe has carriage of such matters and were told she is too busy to meet us to talk about the incident. Instead we were told that they are 'very happy to inform you of the management of the matter and I'm sure you will be quite comfortable it has been well managed'.

Actually, we are not comfortable with the way NSW is managing anything to do with safety. The paramedic injury rate is still at a shocking 20%, the worst in the country. Our members are still being threatened if they stand firm and refuse to respond single in inappropriate situations. Members don't get breaks, don't get off on time, and can't even take their leave at a time that suits them and their families.

This last incident is not the first indication that NSW is installing the wrong type of plant room door. The first incident was in Port Macquarie where a relatively new door fell and crushed a motorbike. The second that we have heard about (NSW covers these things up), is a plant room door in a Sydney Superstation which had a snapped or frayed cable and needed to be urgently repaired. At this point an employer who placed the health and safety of its staff first, would have immediately investigated all plant room doors to ensure there isn't something wrong with the design. Clearly this has not happened, because last night's incident would have been avoided.

The Ambulance Executive are failing in the most rudimentary duty of care of its staff and is displaying a total lack of leadership.

ADHSU Safety Experts are entering Rozelle to run a full inspection on the design and procurement of the plant room doors in question. We'll also be asking questions about how an organisation as large as Ambulance could let the same potentially fatal incident occur repeatedly.

We'll let you know if any of your 'leaders' turn up.

Stuart Hatter
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