



Newsletter: 607/2018  
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Distribution: All ambulance members  
Contact: Your HSU Organiser



## Mandatory testing of suspected transferors for infectious diseases

As you know, ADHSU is an active part of the Emergency Services Coalition (ADHSU, Police: PANSW, Fire Fighters: FBEU & Prison Officers: PSA POVB).

Both the Police Association and POVB's members hold the view that NSW should adopt similar legislation to WA regarding assaults and other incidents on Emergency Service Workers. The WA law mandates testing of a suspected transferor of bodily fluid relating to an assault or other 'prescribed circumstance' on the Emergency Services Worker (ESW).

Pretty much it means that if someone assaults an ESW by way of transferring bodily fluids, they've waived their right to decline a disease test (and some of the right to privacy for the results).

They must submit to the test (or face jail time for refusing) and the results are provided to the ESW and their treating clinician which allows for speedy and better treatment (or peace of mind) of any pathogens and diseases that may have been transferred.

[Here's a policy document](#) from the WA Government that outlines the related law in more detail. Link here: [Mandatory Testing in WA](#).

There are some clinicians who will believe that all persons have the right to medical privacy regardless, and there are others who say that if a person assaults an emergency service worker, they've waived their right to privacy.

We are seeking ADHSU members' feedback on whether or not we should join the other Emergency Services Unions and request that the NSW Government enact mandatory testing legislation similar to WA.

Please respond to the following short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mandtest>

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', written in a cursive style.

Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD