



Newsletter: 708/2018
Date: 24 September 2019
Distribution: All ambulance members
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NSWA announces Mission Accomplished on violence yet sends paramedics out single daily

In one of the most remarkable examples of self-congratulatory box-ticking in years, NSWA has sent out an all-staff email announcing [mission accomplished](#) on anti-violence towards paramedics.

Firstly, this email has been sent out only a week or so after NSWA abruptly cancelled the Occupational Violence Working Party just two days before ADHSU delegates were scheduled to attend the next meeting. This was done without warning nor consultation and delegates are unsure about the future of this programme.

Secondly, it proudly boasts that: 'All 80 Occupational Violence Prevention Recommendations... have been closed' Note the word 'closed'? It would have been more accurate to say 'slammed shut'. Hint: it would be better to have said 'implemented'.

Take the [upper house inquiry's recommendation 36](#) for example: 'That the NSW Government explore resourcing options to eliminate the need for any NSW Ambulance paramedic to attend a job alone and to increase the number of paramedics, particularly in regional areas of the State'.

The recent increase of 700 extra paramedics should have been deployed to reduce single officer deployments – however, NSWA has decided to use most of the 700 to abolish call-out overtime.

Members have sent in 212 individual texts informing ADHSU that they are working single (this doesn't include appropriate single officers such as ECPs etc) since mid-May this year.

Some of those 212 occurred when crews were purposely split to provide single officer coverage of individual towns.

To declare mission successful on the occupational violence front while purposely splitting crews, or refusing to backfill vacancies, is dishonest to say to least.

ADHSU delegates report a growing appetite to push the industrial envelope to ensure a safe workplace. This may include closing stations in the bush where a paramedic has been inappropriately left single.

In the meantime, please continue reporting each incident you have been left single. SMS through to **0428 138 234** – simply include the station, date of incidence and nature of the issue (e.g. left single for >1hour, sent 2 hours to form a crew, responded single to... etc).

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD