

## **Backpay win for Western NSW LHD Patient Transport Officers**

Dear Member,

For a long time now, the HSU Industrial team has been fighting for backpay for a group of members who were employed by Western NSW LHD as Trainee Patient Transport Officers. These members were employed and maintained as Trainees for extended periods (in some cases for more than four years) before they were finally progressed to the higher paid Patient Transport Officer classification. These members were held back as Trainees for so long because the LHD failed to identify and provide the training that they said they needed to progress.

In April 2018, the HSU took this fight to the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales, arguing that our members should have been made Patient Transport Officers earlier, and that they should be paid backpay by the LHD.

On 31 January 2019, the Commission handed down a decision stating that our members *were* entitled to be paid the full Patient Transport Officer rate for the period claimed by the HSU. This win for the HSU was then appealed by the LHD.

That appeal finally came before the Full Bench of the Commission on Monday 11 November 2019. After hearing arguments from both sides, the Full Bench of the Commission denied the LHD leave to appeal the earlier decision. This means that the appeal was won by the HSU, and the decision from January 2019 that our members were entitled to be paid the full Patient Transport Officer rate remains in place.

This win is well deserved and has been a long time coming for our members. I would like to congratulate this group of members for sticking together, standing up, and fighting back for themselves and their workmates.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD