

Big win for Western NSW LHD Patient Transport Officers

Dear Member,

As you may be aware, HSU members in Patient Transport at Western NSW LHD have been fighting for an extended period for their prior service as Trainee Patient Transport Officers to be recognised and paid at the full Patient Transport Officer rate.

In April 2018, the HSU took this fight to the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales, arguing that members should have been made Patient Transport Officers earlier, and that they should be paid backpay by the LHD. The Commission heard evidence from four members who were held up as examples of the way many in Patient Transport at Western NSW LHD had been underpaid.

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. 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 for the period claimed by the HSU remains in place.

The next step is to ensure that other members, who did not give evidence in the case, have their claims for backpay considered in accordance with the Commission's decision. To help us make sure that happens, all members who previously worked as Trainee Patient Transport Officers at Western NSW LHD are asked to complete the brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wnswlhd-trainee-pto>. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Brendan Edghill at the HSU office by calling 1300 329 478.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD