



Newsletter: 083/2020  
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Contact: Your HSU Organiser



## NSWA attempts to use Coronavirus to deny genuine consultation

NSWA management have formulated a new project to address work health and safety issues across the entirety of the service. HSU delegates and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) agreed to attend a meeting regarding the proposed WHS Committee.

It has now become clear that this most likely a simple box-ticking exercise rather than an attempt at meaningful consultation.

While union representatives have a right to be involved in consultation regarding the formation of WHS committees, the service takes the safety of its staff about as seriously as a one-hour teleconference.

Initially, delegates and HSRs were offered a face-to-face meeting with travel arrangements organised by NSWA. When trying to confirm the time and place of the meeting that was to be held on Wednesday this week, we were informed that travel had been cancelled and a teleconference was offered in lieu. We know from previous experience that teleconferences are inadequate for consultation on matters as important as staff safety.

Given the number of WHS issues that plague members across the service and the lacklustre response we have seen from NSWA in the past, we don't believe that face-to-face conversations with our elected representatives are an unreasonable request.

The service has now claimed to deny travel to our representatives due to "*the current status of the coronavirus*". Considering that we work with infectious diseases every day, our members understand preventative hygiene, and domestic travel has had no restrictions placed on it across the rest of the service, it is hard to believe that this is the reason. Cost-saving measures once again appear to trump our right to make decisions regarding the safety of our workplace.

Only when NSWA are committed to genuinely upholding their duties will we come to the table. We will not waste our time being a checkbox on their to-do list.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes'.

Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD