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## MEDIA RELEASE

### How can we better support the physical health of front line workers?

Police and emergency services workers have some of the toughest jobs in the State. It is critically important that they be in good physical health to allow them to do these jobs safely, and effectively. Poor health or injury amongst workers in these fields can have severe impacts on individuals, organisations and the wider community.

These issues are at the centre of a new inquiry by the Legislative Assembly's Committee on Law and Safety. The inquiry will look at how the physical health of police and emergency services workers affects the performance of their duties, as well as how any issues relating to physical health are managed.

"We know that police officers, paramedics and firefighters put their body on the line every day for the people of NSW", said Committee Chair Wendy Tuckerman MP. "Understanding what support is needed to maintain good levels of physical health is essential in making sure we have a positive workplace culture, and effective emergency services".

The inquiry will consider the current physical entry requirements for police and emergency services workers, and see if any improvements can be made to current practices. There will be a focus on how to support physical health on an ongoing basis, as well as how to support someone recovering from illness or injury.

"If a front line worker is suffering from poor physical health, it not only impacts their ability to do their job, but also affects the organisation more broadly. We want to know what this impact is, and what can be done to limit the impact on service delivery. This is particularly critical in regional areas, where it might be difficult to backfill a position when someone is unexpectedly incapacitated".

"We look forward to hearing from people with experience of these issues. It's important that we understand what it's like on the front line, what's working well and where things can be improved".

More information, including the inquiry's terms of reference and how to make a submission, is on the Committee's [webpage](#).

The closing date for submissions is 30 April 2020.

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