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MS CATE FAHRMANN MLC

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MADOLYN HOLLINS

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What is wrong with this picture? This is sexism.

It is the latest NSW Ambulance Special Operations (SOT) class proudly displayed on NSW Ambulance Facebook page on 23rd September 2022 – ALL MALES.

In an organisation that is approximately 50/50 females to males, it is a recurrent issue with NSW Ambulance that males are given more opportunities to progress into specialised and management roles. It is evident in this latest picture, it is evident when you look at employment records of how many female managers such as DOM's and specialists there are to males.

NSW Ambulance supports a toxic masculinity of misogyny. Its sexism is subtle and habitual as clearly evident in this latest photo. But also look at all previous SOT classes, repeatedly dominated by men. The men receive the promotions and career advancements due to the 'old boys club' thoughts and values. But NSW Ambulance gets away with it because it is seen as the 'hero' organisation by the public.

And they cannot say female paramedics did not apply because they did, many female paramedics applied for SOT, and have done over the years. Exceptional, outstanding, brilliant & capable female paramedics. Yet they were ignored in their applications due to their lack of a male appendage. This most recent class, this photo, has made female paramedics feel devalued, it has been a demoralising force, mentally degrading, and this will stick with them for a lifetime.

The kind of sexism on display here will discourage females from advancing and succeeding in the workplace and cause them to leave. It should be made a priority to focus on getting females into these specialised roles & management to encourage, to support, to engage, to mentor the brilliant female paramedics current & upcoming.

Female paramedics in NSW Ambulance just want a fair go. Please, NSW Ambulance needs to change, it is 2022 not the 1970's.

NSW Ambulance is not 'the most trusted profession', it is 'the most misogynistic profession'.