

Submission
No 189

**THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE NSW
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Name: Suppressed
Date received: 17/07/2008

Partially Confidential

Dear Robyn Parker, after sending an email to Jillian Skinner, Shadow Health Minister for N.S.W she kindly wrote me and gave me your details for correspondence with regard to the Ambulance Service of New South Wales report into its management and it's desire again to remove it's Rescue unit.

My name is _____ and I am a senior Ambulance officer with 29 years of experience

I am extremely disappointed with the remarks directed towards the Ambulance Rescue and I know the facts and figures submitted to the report are nothing but lies and do not represent a true indication of the workload we cover. The facts and figures are flawed and only go to show that Mr Mullins from the Firebrigade and our CEO Mr Rochford have gone to extreme length and planning to have our unit transferred to the Firebrigade with no regard to the officers who have worked the Ambulance rescue unit.

With this in mind, if we were not in this roll (RESCUE), I can guarantee that the people of _____ would not have the quick response to medical aid we offer. I note the report indicates a desire to have rapid responder vehicles operating at greater numbers, but even with these vehicles around the Sydney districts who can be sent out of their operating areas to cover the work load to which the Rescue units do not, response times that the service pride themselves on would blow out significantly and could cost lives.

Also the report states that as Rescue we have the ability over other Rescue units to offer advanced medical assistance I.C.P (Intensive Care Paramedic) to our patients as well as the rescue component "all true", but another Ambulance can always be called in our place. This is a broad comment as all Ambulances now have Paramedics working them, just a name change from Ambulance officer to Paramedic which occurred in the last year. If this were true, than why have we seen a growing trend not to send an Intensive care Paramedic vehicle to those cases we call code 9, referring to cases that require Rescue ? because a large number of Intensive care Paramedics now are trained in Rescue and operating on the Rescue vehicles. This does not go to say that the numbers of Intensive Care Paramedics are dwindling, just that with the increased work load, our I.C.P officers are off attending to a large number of cases that do not require I.C.P's. On Rescue we constantly find ourselves treating patients and actively working to extricate them long before an ambulance arrives due to the workload these other officers are under. This is another vital and important link to the roll of Ambulance Officer, and one we must not loose. Having the various agencies Rescue trained keeps the other groups up to date and always striving to improve their work ethics and training. We have assisted the firebrigade containing vehicle fires and other incidents as much as they have helped us when our service becomes stretched. This roll is not one that has just materialised over a couple of years. It has taken many years of dedicated work by Ambulance staff to accomplish this, long before Firebrigade decided to become involved.

This is not just a job to the staff who have worked extremely hard to achieve these credentials this is OUR career, MY career and I find it offensive and I feel Victimised and Bullied by Mr Rochford the committee and the Governments efforts to abandon the staff Mr Rochford is supposed to be leading. Ambulance Rescue also play an important roll in assisting Special Operations with backup to the Tactical Response units of the New South Wales Police service and the Police Rescue and Bomb squad. We add another dimension to the service at major incidents and teamed with SCAT we have operated at APEC and support visiting dignitaries. Funny that at this present time it is the Ambulance Rescue and Scat officers who are leading the staff attending and overseeing the personal protection of the Pope whilst in Sydney for the World Youth Week.

Over the course of my career in the Ambulance, I have seen many enquiries into the service. It wasn't that long ago the Intensive care Paramedics were being looked at because of the cost of running these highly trained officers were "they believe" were too expensive. The Ambulance service has grown over the 29 years since I started but not by the amount it should have. Population explosions in New South Wales and the Sydney and outer areas have left us stranded years behind where we should be. Poor vision by the Senior Management and the Government I believe is to blame, yet they see fit to blame it on everyone else and a very small number of Rescue officers who they think by removing Rescue and placing them back in an Ambulance will somehow fix everything. Over the last 15 years the service has not only moved to sell off its assets (stations) etc but is now attempting to offer up its staff as bait to make itself look good or should I say the CEO. As a proud Rescue Paramedic, I can not truly express how I feel at this moment, but ask you to reconsider the foolish decision to remove this vital, accomplished and proficient department.