

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

**Name:** Mr Brett Campbell

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Partially Confidential

29 July 2008

Dear members of the above Standing Committee

I have already made a submission (number 36) previously. This submission today is made under term of reference (e) of this inquiry and has resulted from a matter that I was subject to in 2003 or 2004 in \_\_\_\_\_ by the Service. Besides my full time employment as an intensive care paramedic with the Service I also held two very significant union positions (unpaid) in \_\_\_\_\_. The District Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Station Officer \_\_\_\_\_ (now based in the \_\_\_\_\_ Ambulance Service) and ambulance officer \_\_\_\_\_ (now a station officer) collaborated and reviewed all of the cases that I had attended for approximately a four year period that I am aware of and sent eight patient health care records to the Clinical Review Group for their assessment of my clinical treatment of these cases. At no time had I ever been asked by any of these officers to justify any of the treatment that I had administered to the patients or any of my actions on the cases.

I was advised by letter by Sector Manager \_\_\_\_\_ that I was required to be the subject of a clinical inquiry to be held at \_\_\_\_\_ by the educator attached to that education centre and the acting manager of education based at \_\_\_\_\_. I knew immediately from past behaviour that this was yet another poorly thought out witch-hunt in an attempt to attack my character and credibility by the usual covert suspects. I liaised with the educator and stated that I would not attend without a fellow union activist and he hurriedly made some telephone calls and call me back and gave me many assurances that it was not a witch-hunt and that a union representative was not necessary. With some reluctance and because of my respect for the educator I agreed that I would not require a union representative present.

Following this I was treated like a prisoner as I was required on the day to travel to actually be at work, then escorted by the acting station officer to my home address to pick up personal effects, driven to the airport and board the plane. Then I was picked up at \_\_\_\_\_ airport and driven to divisional office before being driven to \_\_\_\_\_ dropped off at the organised accommodation overnight to be picked up the next morning for the inquiry. The inquiry was conducted appropriately and out of the eight cases that I was presented with I only had one count of illegible handwriting. The two educators conducting the inquiry were profusely apologetic that I had been subjected to such a process considering that there was basically nothing to answer and that they could not believe the inappropriate actions of the abovementioned officers.

The outcomes were that I needed to take more care with my handwriting on patient health care records and that there would be no more reviews into patient health care records completed by myself prior to the date of the inquiry. I was also advised that the Service was now not going to investigate a number of patient health care records completed by a very senior and respected intensive care paramedic who the three abovementioned officers had chosen also to target because of his union affiliation

and it appears that they think this would set an example to the remaining staff. The reason I was given why the Service was now not going to investigate this other officer were words to the effect '...we have already wasted your and our time with an inappropriate investigation and will not subject someone else to this'. I commend the two educators for their honesty and integrity despite them both being very embarrassed by the circumstances surrounding the matter and the now very differing outcomes.

I was then driven to                    airport, then picked up at                    airport by the acting station officer to my home address to drop off personal effects and then escorted back to work to complete my shift. Fortunately humility is a good quality to endure and is strengthening to the soul, I had almost forgotten this very unfortunate and inappropriate persecutory experience until being reminded of it by a colleague earlier today.

I approached two of the three officers individually responsible for the above collaboration and advised them that in future they needed to at least talk to me about any clinical matters they felt concerned about and if they did not feel confident to do this, they then should involve the station officer to assist them to discuss their concerns with me. One of them emphatically denied any involvement and the other one did not know how to respond at all. The third officer I could not bring myself to discussing the matter because I knew from previous experience that firstly that officer would lie and deny any knowledge and also it would not ever cease from this unfortunately vindictive human being.

Thank you for affording me the ability to make a submission to this very important inquiry. You have my permission to make this document 'fully public' because I certainly have nothing to hide.

Yours sincerely

Brett Campbell