

Submission
No 180

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

Name: Suppressed
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Partially Confidential

11/7/2008.

Minister for Health Reba Meagher, and the members of the NSW parliament,

The recommendations of the inquiry into NSW Ambulance advised giving Rescue over to NSW Fire Brigade. Unfortunately you have been ill-informed by an inquiry that was not supplied the complete picture. This strategy from ASNSW management is part of the problem not part of the solution

NSW Ambulance Rescue Paramedics supply a service, not only to the people of NSW, but nationally and internationally. As part of special operations we are ready to respond. This is a unique attribute and a testament to the foresight of the people before you. We are the best rescue trained and equipped group in the country, add to that our extensive medical training and you have something special.

There are situations where the patient can't be accessed by regular paramedics. What we bring to the trapped patient, yes to us they are a patient, is the ability to monitor and stabilise before, during and after the rescue. We can slow or speed up the heart, treat hyperkalaemia from compression injury, hypovolemia from blood loss, hypoglycaemia from low blood sugar, dehydration, advanced trauma management. What other rescue organisations can offer is a bandaid or a bandage. We have an ability to communicate with other paramedics like no other rescue organisation; we are on the same page regarding trauma management and indeed same radio network. We understand the consequences of our actions on the patient's condition. In some aspects we are similar to a medic in the army we are multi-skilled and part of our training is the ability to be dropped by helicopter with RAFT (Remote Area Fire Team). When we are not rescuing patients we responding in the same way as rapid responders do. Week in week out we are saving lives using our paramedic skills responding to medical emergencies.

Fixing bed block at the hospitals would put twice as many ambulances on the streets. With the destruction of ANSW rescue you are removing a career path, I fear that many officers will resign or worse. In any case, as some rural crews are already operating in ambulances and respond back to station to get in the rescue truck, you will in reality get fewer cars on the road than you are lead to believe. This is a drop in the bucket to a much more complex problem. Moral in ASNSW is at an all time low, fix management, renumerate us what we are worth, this is the way forward and people will stay in the job.

Please read between the lines we are a valuable and essential resource. What looks good on paper may not be what it seems. It would look good on paper to double school class sizes and sack half the teachers but we a smart enough to know that doesn't work.

Don't sell the people of NSW short; we should be increasing the numbers of Rescue Paramedics. The good work of the leaders in the past should not be undone by you today.

Yours faithfully,