

Submission
No 90

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

Name: Suppressed
Date received: 25/06/2008

Partially Confidential

[First three quarters of this submission omitted by secretariat to maintain confidentiality, as requested by author]

Not one call was made nor one visit performed but take one day too many off sick and expect action straight away. The service does not allow for our officers of the ambulance to get sick or to de-stress unless you are a manager of some kind. The frontline officers are bleeding themselves. No wonder some are taking their own lives. There is absolutely NO support from the service.

The ambulance service is in severe trouble. It runs on nepotism and corruption. Junior officers are getting cushy postings as their pay scales are much cheaper than senior officers with experience. How does an ordinary ambulance officer become promoted to a senior position over night without having to go up through the ranks or without that job being advertised? Jobs for the boys? The front line officers have no support at all. As the officer who killed himself recently said, senior managers are withholding funds to make themselves look good. That is true. The reason I know so much about it is because I was once an ambulance officer too but lucky for me I got out when the going was good. I have seen go from a happy go lucky outgoing person to a withdrawn, depressed person who has no time for anyone. He struggles to get out of bed most days but it isn't that hard as he rarely gets the chance to go to bed in the first place when he is on for those 7 days each week. I am sure that if he felt appreciated by management and had support when required he would feel as though he was a valuable member of the service. He has made it a point of upgrading all his skills to serve the community and receives no extra pay for it. The ambulance service does everything it can to avoid any pay rises for it's officers who amongst the worst paid of all the emergency services.