



John Della Bosca MLC
Minister for Health
Minister for the Central Coast
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

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IRC assists to resolve Ambulance industrial action

NSW Minister for Health, John Della Bosca, said disruption to hospital patients would be minimised, as a result of an urgent hearing last night in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission.

The Ambulance Service of NSW and the Health Services Union participated before the full bench of the Commission.

After nearly five hours of hearings, the Commission issued orders for the Union to notify its Ambulance Service membership, as a matter of urgency, to desist from industrial action which had threatened non-urgent patient transfers.

The orders are legally enforceable and effective for three months.

"I understand that paramedics have found the Award modernisation process to be difficult and that they're disappointed by the recent Ambulance Rescue decision," Mr Della Bosca said.

"I know they are passionate about their role and I have the highest respect for their skills and dedication.

"The Commission has undertaken to assist both parties to implement changes to rosters and other work practices which flowed from the new 2008 Award," he said.

The new Award contained pay rises of between 8.5 per cent and 15 per cent, in addition to the 2.5 per cent sector-wide increases. The new rates were effective from September 2008.

As part of the ruling, the new Award also modernised penalty and roster arrangements.

"It's important the new arrangements are introduced sensibly and in consultation with our workforce," Mr Della Bosca said.

"The Ambulance Service will continue to work with Ambulance Officers and the Health Services Union in the best interests of this high quality workforce and the patients they care for.

"I thank the Commission, the Service and the Union for their ongoing work in helping to resolve this matter," he said.

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