

OCTOBER 2019

## SHORTS WAIT IS OVER

**As reported in previous member bulletins, we have an exciting update on the shorts front.**

United Voice representatives who sit on the SEVC have advised that the final approvals have been given and uniform issue shorts can now be ordered via the Work Wear Group TAMS.

A big pat on the back to the current and previous United Voice members of the SEVC for pursuing this issue for as long as they have. While not everyone will be eager to show their pins, this will be welcome relief for a number of our members in North Queensland and beyond as we move into the warmer months.



## STAFF FORUM – MENTAL HEALTH

**Representatives from United Voice participated in the recent staff forum held on 25-26 September where the main topic centred on mental health and wellbeing.**

This discussion and the table workshops were driven by the work being done by the QAS Mental Health Taskforce, which includes United Voice member representatives doing great work to progress support for current and retired staff and their families.

It was encouraging to see participants in this forum discuss this important topic openly and honestly. It was useful for the committee members of the taskforce to hear a broad range of perspectives from staff around the state about possible initiatives to break down the stigma attached to mental health amongst emergency service staff.

What is clear from the various discussions around the

state, and across all emergency services nationally, is that we have come a long way in regards to how staff with mental health illnesses are supported in their recovery and return to work options.

If you would like to discuss this work further, contact your local United Voice organiser who will be able to put you in touch with your local representative on the Mental Health Taskforce.

## NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

**This week, United Voice delegate Ginny and local QAS representatives spoke out in the media about three recent sickening attacks on paramedics in the Darling Downs region.**

In one incident a paramedic suffered several fractures to his nose and required surgery after he was head-butted by an agitated patient in Highfields.

In another incident a paramedic received facial injuries after being kicked by a patient being attended to in Dalby.

In the third incident a paramedic received blows to his back and flank from the knees of an agitated patient in an ambulance also in Dalby.

These are just some examples of the appalling abuse United Voice members face in the line of duty each and every day - and enough is enough.

Thank you to Ginny for stepping up and speaking out against this vile behaviour, as we continue to campaign against violence.

You can see what Ginny had to say in some of the media clips we have featured on the Code One Facebook page. We encourage you to share these on your own social media accounts to help get the message out that there's no excuse for abuse.

