

# AMBO BULLETIN

November, 2019

**UNITED**  
**WORKERS UNION**

## IN THE LINE OF FIRE

A big Shout Out to our colleagues in attendance at bushfires currently being fought in regions across the state. Our communities are indebted to your courage and caring. Keep safe!



**This issue of Ambo Update marks our first as members of United Workers Union. Our new union is built on the foundations of two proud unions coming together: United Voice and the National Union of Workers (NUW), with overwhelming support from our members.**

While we have a new name and a new logo, our values remain the same along with our ongoing commitment to our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, patient transport officers and air rescue crews - standing up for better pay and conditions, zero tolerance for abuse, support for mental health, and opportunities for professional development.

## REGISTRATION RENEWAL

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**All paramedics need to renew their registration with AHPRA on 30 November 2019.**



You need to be aware that:

- You understand the registration standards before you make a declaration. For more information go to the Paramedicine Board website [www.paramedicineboard.gov.au/Professional-standards/Registration-standards.aspx](http://www.paramedicineboard.gov.au/Professional-standards/Registration-standards.aspx)
- Failure to renew within one month of your registration expiry date means you will be removed from the National Register and will need to reapply to AHPRA before you can practise as a paramedic again.
- If you originally applied through a grand-parenting pathway and at any stage you cease your paramedic registration, but then want to re-apply, the grand-parenting pathway is only open for a limited time and will cease on 30 November 2021.

Union members received their professional indemnity certificate of currency in August this year when that policy was renewed. If you're asked to provide a copy upon renewal of registration, contact the union office to be sent a replacement copy.

United Workers Union offers a CPD platform which is an opportunity to complete learning modules and document your CPD hours, which may also be required to be produced if audited by AHPRA. [unitedworkersunion.talisiumlearning.com/#/login](http://unitedworkersunion.talisiumlearning.com/#/login)

Your union has been advocating for members with AHPRA for the last 14 months around issues of application for registration, AHPRA initiated investigations and AHPRA initiated restrictions of practise. To ensure you have the support you need in dealing with the regulator for your profession, it's important you notify your United Workers Union Delegate or Official as soon as you become aware you may need to respond to AHPRA on a matter about your ongoing registration.

## SUPPORTING RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

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**United Workers Union representatives of the Paramedic Safety Management Committee have been hearing feedback and seeing statistics from the pilot program which utilises mental health clinicians on the road as co-responders and others in the Op Cen to provide information and support to responding crews.**

On Friday 1 November union representatives were able to attend a workshop along with some of the mental health clinicians and LARU officers who've been working on the ground with the mental health co-responders to hear first-hand about their experiences.

The pilot program which started in Metro South and West Moreton LASNs has now commenced in the Gold Coast LASN, and LARU representatives from all three LASNs were present to participate in this workshop. They provided their insights about working in this space and contributed constructive feedback about what the

system does well and the areas where they could see improvements being valuable.

One of the key statistics out of the pilot is the access to alternate pathways this program provides paramedics as alternatives to admission to hospital EDs. By having either a co-responder being dispatched to appropriate cases with a paramedic, or accessing information from the mental health clinician in the Op Cen, paramedics reported a more effective set of tools at their disposal when dealing with the patients experiencing a range of responses as a result of a mental health crisis.

If you're a paramedic working with a mental health co-responder in the community, or if you have accessed information from the mental health clinicians in the Op Cen, let us know your experience. You can reply by email or send your information to [gldambulance@unitedworkers.org.au](mailto:gldambulance@unitedworkers.org.au).

## DID YOU KNOW? Patient and employee privacy



**Over the last several weeks staff have been provided with information reminding them of the importance of protecting the privacy and confidentiality of patients and fellow staff members.**

There has been information about using the QAS ICT systems appropriately and only for the purposes of carrying out ambulance business. All employees of QAS are required to comply with the Code of Conduct for the Queensland public service which sets out obligations for the lawful collection and handling of personal information.

United Workers Union industrial officers have supported a number of members recently in regard to allegations around inappropriate access of patient and staff information, so it's timely that members remember their obligations in this area.

## EB 2020

**Your State Council Delegates will be coming together in December to work through the many ideas they have been collecting from members around the state that may become part of the union Log of Claims for next year's EB negotiations.**

If you haven't had a discussion with your LASN State Council Delegate about this, make sure you get in touch over the next month so they understand what the issues are in each LASN.

In solidarity,

**Gary Bullock**  
Vice President



There's also been communication to staff regarding the onus to report any instances of behaviour which may be unlawful, non-compliant with the Code of Conduct or which does not meet the expected standards of a QAS employee.

Areas which people may find themselves inadvertently witness to, or involved in, the inappropriate use of patient or staff information may include sharing details with co-workers via social media apps, texting or emailing images or details, or accessing QAS devices for circumstances other than their intended use as a tool to use to carry out your role as a QAS employee.

If you're unsure about any individual circumstance relating to patient and employee privacy, contact your United Workers Union Delegate or Organiser for clarification. – **Don't risk it.**



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