



# ***United, stronger & ready for action***

**Welcome to the first end of year wrap up for the United Workers Union.**



Along with the new national union comes a new structure where we aim to harness the capacity of members across the country to make gains in commonly shared areas of interest and to learn from and support each other. The national ambulance section is part of the largest section of members in the United Workers Union – the Public Sector Section – which has over 30 000 members across the country.

I've been endorsed by the National Executive of the union as the National Executive Director of the Public Sector Section. My immediate role prior to the formation of the United Workers Union was as President of the Queensland Branch of United Voice, and I had carriage of the Education industry as part of my role. We have appointed Fiona

Scalon as a National Co-ordinator for the Ambulance Section. Fiona will work with existing structures in the four regions we have Ambulance Section members, Qld, WA, NT and Victoria. Her immediate role prior to the formation of United Workers Union was Qld Industry Co-ordinator for the ambulance and health sections.

We've had another big year for paramedic and ambulance officer members of the now United Workers Union.

Ambulance section members successfully lobbied for increased staffing enhancements in this year's State Budget - securing 200 new paramedics, 122 new and replacement ambulance vehicles, and \$55.7 million in capital infrastructure to build new stations and upgrade existing stations. United Workers Union Delegates met with politicians, presented their case in the media and were ultimately successful in their efforts.

Ambulance section members participated in the decision made by members earlier this year to form a bigger, stronger new union by joining forces nationally with the National Union of Workers. The new union becomes the largest union representing ambulance employees across the country. The collective efforts of almost 6000 paramedic and ambulance officer members will be a force to be reckoned with.

This year has seen the introduction of the Continuing

Professional Development (CPD) platform, Talisium, for members to document their professional learning. The platform allows participants to undertake short form modules formulated to meet the needs of our ambulance section members. Several Queensland ambulance section members are on the advisory panel that will contribute to content and provide feedback to ensure it stays relevant.

One of the final events of the year was the three-day State Council Delegate conference in early December. Delegates from around the state came together to discuss emerging issues in their areas and to collate those issues from members which may formulate claims for next year's EB negotiations. Members will be surveyed early in the New Year to determine which claims are prioritised based on members' views.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing delegates and members in the ambulance section for all of the hard work they've done over the last 12 months, often in their own time, supporting and representing fellow members and representing the union at many forums across the state.



*Shan Cadden*  
**Public Sector Director  
United Workers Union**

## PRIVATE PARAMEDICS

*We aren't just the Union for QAS Paramedics.*

Over the last few years United Workers Union (formally United Voice) has been increasing our membership in the private paramedic sector. We have members who work for events companies, mine and industrial sites and for private acute medical transport services. With the introduction of professional registration for paramedics we have seen an increase in enquiries about joining United Workers Union.

The same industrial representation and access to advice and insurance

products available to QAS ambulance officers is available for any financial member who falls within the definitions under the union's rules around coverage. If you know someone who works in the ambulance services field make sure they know they too can join us and be covered by the protection of the biggest ambulance union in the country.



## KJM GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

As a proud sponsor of the KJ McPherson Education and Research Foundation, United Workers Union congratulates Lauren Martin from Springfield as this year's recipient for Graduate of the Year grant.

Lauren was recognised for her extensive paramedical clinician input, student mentoring, coaching and community activities and career talks at local high schools. Lauren plans to use her grant to contribute towards further researching opportunities for contribution and enhancement to QAS clinical practices.



*well done!*

## CREWIES' BUSY YEAR

*QGAir and LifeFlight crewies have had another very busy year.*

The north Queensland floods, shark attack victims, motor vehicle accidents, injured mountain climbers, and the devastating bushfires across the state were just a few of the jobs that have kept our crew men and women up in the air looking after Queenslanders this year.

For LifeFlight members next year will be extra busy as they go into bargaining for their next certified agreement.

Organisers are already out and about visiting sites to give members the opportunity to have a say and give input into their next agreement.



## UNITED WORKERS UNION FIRST NATIONS ROUND TABLE MEETING

*In November this year United Workers Union Ambulance Delegate Angela Beatson attended a First Nations Round Table meeting in Darwin along with a number of other Indigenous members from a broad variety of industries covered by United Workers Union.*

These forums are a platform to ensure the Indigenous voice is part of the structures of the United

Workers Union and we are able to ensure appropriate steps are taken to encourage diversity amongst our ranks and deliver opportunities for this group of workers to build a union they identify with and are encouraged to be part of.

Angela is acknowledged by her employer as an advocate for indigenous staff and provides advice for the service in regards to their indigenous cadet programs and

engagement with the community. Angela was awarded a high commendation by the Queensland Council of Unions in 2018 for her work in the union movement representing Indigenous members.

Angela is a sister we can be proud of for her advocacy for Indigenous members and general delegate support she provides every day at her home station of Rockhampton.

