



Unfilled Shifts / Single officer

25 May 2020

Over recent weeks United Workers Union members and delegates have been reporting instances of unfilled business as usual shifts via their LASN structures and to the Union office. It was disappointing to hear that delegates were being informed that the Union had signed off on the process of letting shifts go unfilled, and for officers to run as single officers when they would normally be part of a crew.

While there have been regular briefings from QAS to United Workers Union regarding the arrangements that have been put in place to bolster the system in preparation of work in the COVID-19 environment, at no point has the United Workers Union “signed off” on any short fall of resources as part of this response.

We understand that because there has been a significant downturn in presentations and calls to 000 along with the added on-road resources, decisions have been made about utilising those extra staff on-road to fill resourcing needs. At no point has there been an agreement that officers who would normally work as part of a two-person crew be deployed as single officers.

Representatives of United Workers Union have raised concerns about involvement in briefing sessions being communicated to staff as "agreement". In response to this QAS senior managers have provided assurances that there is no intention that officers who would normally work as part of a crew operate as single officer responses. When decisions are made about which shifts are back-filled to cover sick or emergent leave include taking into account the resources at neighbouring locations and the extra group of staff who have been diverted to on-road resources, this should not result in officers working as a single response.

However, delegates report that this is occurring.

The Union needs specific information for this to be addressed and escalated. Officers who are aware of, or who are left as single officer responses, who would normally work as part of a crew, should report up through their local delegate structures to your State Council delegate.

If it's easier for you to report this online visit unitedworkers.org.au/ambohub/#reportit
The closer to real time you can reported it the better.

If you have a co-worker who isn't part of United Workers Union but wishes to report these issues or participate in achieving greater outcomes as a collective, encourage them to join your union at unitedworkers.org.au/joinform/

In Unity,

Sharron Caddie

Public Sector Director
United Workers Union