



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

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Name: Benjamin Gilmour
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[REDACTED]

Name

Benjamin Gilmour

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

PARAMEDICS

New South Wales Ambulance has an abysmal attrition rate. Meanwhile demand for the service is off the charts. New South Wales paramedics are by far, the lowest paid in the country. This has dire consequences for state funding because to afford housing and other living costs, paramedics need to work overtime. This leads to burn out, injuries and PTSD which intern cost the state millions of dollars Sick Leave is through the roof due to overworked and underpaid paramedics, resulting in large amounts of health funding. Spent on overtime pay. Instead of hundreds of millions of dollars given for more paramedics and for scholarships to train more paramedics, focus should turn back to retention of paramedics. Taking care of the ones already trained and very experienced. Paramedics are an essential resource that takes the pressure of hospitals experience paramedics treat patients in their homes, and transport less than 25% of patients they attend. Their value is enormous, but the average hourly rate for a 20 year veteran paramedic remains \$38 an hour.

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