



# Ambulance Employees Association of Western Australia

## Spare Officers & Short Notice Roster Changes (aka being moved)

Effective Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

Recently we have been contacted by an increasing number of our members who have either been called or texted by the staff deployment team while OFF DUTY. This has resulted in interrupted R&R, interrupted sleep between night shifts, interrupted family time AND can often result in excessive travel time to different depots, when officers feel obliged to make an extra effort to get to the new depot on time.

We would like to remind our members of the following:

- You are under NO obligation to answer a mobile phone when off duty  
You are under NO obligation to read a WORK RELATED text message received outside of shift hours
- In fact, you are under no obligation to own a mobile phone.

The AEAWA believe it is important for the health and wellbeing of our members to be able to peacefully enjoy time off...**time for which they are NOT BEING PAID**. The organisation has an obligation to adequately recruit, train and retain staff so that shifts are covered. It has a responsibility to have enough ambulances to run the service. It is self-evident that SJA like to rely on a proportion of Spare officers per roster to help fill cracks in the system, but you are under NO obligation to facilitate this mechanism (which is generally only beneficial to SJA) by acknowledging calls or texts while OFF shift.

For example, should an officer receive a text message in advance of their night shift, advising of a change of depot, they can rest assured that they will be completely secure in **ONLY checking their phone AFTER arriving at the depot they were originally rostered to, and then using a WORK vehicle / ambulance to travel to the requested destination.**

Most insurance companies do not cover the use of a private vehicle to travel BETWEEN work locations, they simply cover the commute TO and FROM work. When signing your registration declaration, it usually asks for private or work related use. Once on duty **please ensure you use an AMBULANCE to move to your alternate depot, only AFTER your shift has commenced**, and that you **RETURN to your rostered depot in time for the end of your original shift**. You are entitled to request a return to your starting depot, in time for the end of your shift.

If you choose to answer your phone prior to the start of your shift and are given an instruction to relocate, then you must comply, but you should claim 'Time and Travel' to the new depot. Please note this advice is given without taking anything away from the hard work undertaken by our dedicated rosters colleagues.

They do an absolutely AMAZING job given the current circumstances. We simply ask that our LEADERSHIP place less pressure on our rosters colleagues to interrupt downtime, so that adequate resourcing occurs, and our members can enjoy the full extent of their time OFF DUTY.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

## **AEAWA**



### **Contact Us**

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