



MEDIA STATEMENT

Ambulance Employees Association of Western Australia

Tuesday 29 April 2025

For Immediate Release

AMBULANCE WORKERS BEGIN PROTECTED INDUSTRIAL ACTION

PERTH, WA - The Ambulance Employees Association of Western Australia (AEAWA) has announced that protected industrial action will commence from 6:00am today, Tuesday 29 April 2025, following the overwhelming rejection of St John Ambulance's proposed Enterprise Agreement.

A ballot on the proposed Agreement resulted in 987 employees voting against it, with only 123 voting in favour, reflecting deep dissatisfaction with current working conditions and proposed terms.

"Our members have spoken clearly - the proposed Agreement falls far short of addressing the critical issues facing ambulance workers in Western Australia," said an AEAWA spokesperson. "After months of good-faith negotiations that have failed to produce acceptable outcomes, our members have been left with no choice but to take protected industrial action."

The industrial action will include several measures designed to highlight the challenges faced by ambulance workers while **maintaining essential emergency services**, including:

- Ambulance vehicles displaying campaign messages highlighting issues such as ramping, response times, and working conditions;
- Members wearing union t-shirts or black t-shirts while on duty;
- Crews prioritising personal fatigue management in relation to overtime shifts;
- Members ceasing to respond to work communications outside of rostered hours;
- Vehicle and equipment checks commencing only during paid work hours.

The AEAWA emphasised that all actions have been carefully designed to maintain public safety while bringing attention to the serious issues affecting ambulance services in Western Australia.

"The ramping crisis continues to worsen, with ambulances now spending unprecedented hours waiting outside hospitals instead of responding to emergencies," the spokesperson added. "In 2017, ambulances were ramped for an average of 819 hours per month. By 2025, that figure has surged to over 5,100 hours each month - a staggering increase. To put it in perspective, former Health Minister Roger Cook labelled it a 'crisis' back in 2015, when ramping was just one-fifth of what it is today." The union highlighted that this action follows a recent ballot where 89% of voting members rejected St John's proposed agreement, signalling widespread dissatisfaction with current conditions and offers.

The AEAWA stressed that emergency responses will continue without interruption, and the public should continue to call 000 in emergencies as normal.

"We remain committed to providing life-saving care to the Western Australian community," the spokesperson said. "Our dispute is not with our patients, but with an employment agreement that fails to properly recognise the vital work performed by ambulance professionals across our state - and with the State Government and WA Health, who would rather see our paramedics working inside hospitals than responding to the community."

The State Government has fostered a secretive culture where the ambulance ramping crisis is hidden from public view at all costs, health partners are subject to gag orders, and critical government contracts, such as the Ambulance Service Agreement, are treated as 'commercial-in-confidence', thereby escaping all scrutiny."

The public deserves transparency and accountability.

The industrial action will continue until further notice as negotiations progress.

END

On behalf of the Executive Committee
Ambulance Employees Association of WA

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