

# APA (NSW) Member Update

## "Absolutely appalling": NSW to deprive patients of ICP treatment

26 August 2019

Dear Member,

Today in the Industrial Relations Commission (**IRC**), NSW Ambulance (**NSWA**) took a position that will place patients' lives, Paramedic registration and Paramedic well-being at risk.

NSWA's lawyer stated that Intensive Care Paramedics (**ICPs**) in P1 positions would have their specialist status removed from the Computer Aided Dispatch (**CAD**) system and equipment and medications removed from vehicles. They would not be responded as ICPs even if a patient required their intensive care skills. Why? So that NSW will only have to pay them P1 rates instead of ICP rates.

The IRC Commissioner said it would be "absolutely appalling" if an ICP was prevented from using their life-saving skills merely because of their position title.

Paramedic Specialists, as registered medical professionals, must be allowed to perform their life saving skills and they must be paid for the work they do. We need more ICPs across the state, not less. Rather than wasting money de-skilling ICPs, NSW should be investing in more ICPs across the state.

APA (NSW) is continuing to fight this matter in the IRC and will continue to update members.

Our advice to our specialists: In order to protect your registration, perform your skills consistent with your Certificate to Practice. If NSW takes any step to stop you performing your specialist skills, contact APA (NSW) immediately.

Our message to NSW: Stop gambling with people's lives and allow the ICP's to do what they do best. Pay them for the professionals that they are and recognise that investment in more ICPs is in everyone's interests.

In solidarity,

APA (NSW) Executive

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