

**Labor**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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## **NSW LIBERAL GOVERNMENT OPPOSES PAY RISE FOR PARAMEDICS AND POLICE**

The Berejiklian Government has left behind our police and paramedics, crucial frontline workers doing the heavy lifting during this unprecedented time. Despite their hard work during the Covid 19 outbreak the Berejiklian Government have denied them payrises, despite police lodging award negotiations over a year ago.

Police officers began negotiations over their Award in August of 2019 and served a log of claims in December of that year, yet a year later, instead of resolving police and paramedics Awards, the Berejiklian Government has left the wage case to drift. In March they even knocked back an offer from police

officers to rollover their Award to allow everyone to concentrate on the myriad of tasks before them.

Every week that the Berejiklian Government continues to fight a pay rise for police officers and paramedics, they continue to miss out. This is despite the Commissioner for Police, Mick Fuller, already receiving his pay rise and having it backdated.

In the Commission today, the Government continued to refuse the Commissioner permission to apply a 12 month rollover or to release the parameters of the Wages Taskforce that was requested. The Berejiklian Government must explain why they denied these frontline workers a 12 month rollover and why they continue to block the wage application by police officers and paramedics.

NSW Police and our Paramedics should not be financially disadvantaged during Covid-19 as public sector wage growth is an important economic lever the government should use.

Shadow Minister for Health Ryan Park said: "Paramedics and Police have gone above and beyond during the Covid-19 pandemic. They have worked day and night to keep our community safe. They deserve a medal not a pay cut."

Shadow Minister for Police Lynda VOLTZ said: "Police officers and paramedics have been deployed to bushfires, floods and the pandemic response across every corner of the state, now the Premier and the Treasurer are stalling in the Commission, refusing to back pay any rise, despite the negotiations drifting for a year.

“They are ignoring the stimulus that a pay rise brings to the families and communities that depend on these workers particularly in regional towns.”

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