



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday, 25 February 2013

#### **MINISTER CONDEMNS LABOR & HSU AMBULANCE SCARE CAMPAIGN**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today condemned Labor and the Health Services Union's attempts to undermine the life-saving work of the state's paramedics.

"Let's be clear – Labor and the HSU are out of touch when it comes to our hard-working paramedics," Mrs Skinner said.

"There are no cuts to the NSW Ambulance budget - it increased by more than \$15 million this year to \$678.9 million.

"There are no cuts to NSW Ambulance paramedic jobs - in fact, an additional 10 paramedic positions have been created out of a restructure of non-paramedic roles in the past six months.

"These claims are not only wrong, they are alarmist and nothing short of scaremongering by Labor and the HSU," Mrs Skinner said.

"It's disappointing to see Labor and the HSU joining forces to scare the community about the capabilities of our trusted paramedics.

"It is simply wrong to assume that frontline paramedic jobs will go to meet the whole-of-government cap on labour expenses.

"I am advised by NSW Ambulance that labour expense savings have been found by relying less on contractors, restructuring corporate services, investing in e-Health and reforming the roster system to reduce paramedic overtime and fatigue."

Mrs Skinner said in 2011/12, there were more than 1,183,000 ambulance responses to emergency and non-emergency incidents.

"In all Triple Zero responses, NSW Ambulance prioritises timely, quality patient care and takes the safety of paramedics very seriously.

"The NSW Government backs our state's paramedics who in the vast majority of cases do an extraordinary job in what are often extraordinary circumstances," Mrs Skinner said.