

# SICK QUEENSLANDERS SUFFER AS AMBULANCE RAMPING WORSENS

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Sick and injured Queenslanders are being forced to wait up to four and a half hours on hospital ramps preventing already stretched paramedics from assisting other needy patients because hospital executives refuse to fix ramping problems.

Despite continued calls for improvements from the official ambulance union, United Voice, and pressure from the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), executives from the Health and Hospital Services Boards continue to ignore this ever growing problem and refuse to follow the MEDAI Directives that the Government reintroduced last year.

“With winter almost upon us the unacceptable number of ambulances that are being ramped every day is only going to increase, this will put Queensland lives at risk and our hard working paramedics under even more pressure,” said United Voice Secretary Gary Bullock.

“This problem needs to be fixed and it needs to be fixed now. It’s time for the Health Minister to step in and make Health and Hospital Services Boards accountable.

“The executives on these Health and Hospital Services Boards need to assist ambulance officers, paramedics and the QAS by following the MEDAI Directives issued by the Health and Ambulance Service Minister that clearly outline the need for patients to be off the stretcher and into the care of the hospital staff within 30 minutes so that paramedics can more readily respond to the increasing daily emergencies in the community.

“This is not an attack on the fantastic emergency departments and dedicated emergency staff, but it is time that Health Service executives address this problem once and for all. The time for rhetoric is over, action is needed.

“Queensland ambulance officers and paramedics are already working at capacity, the last thing they need is to be kept waiting on ramps for hours on end when they know there are other patients that need their expert help,” said Mr Bullock.

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