

July 2016

# RAAV Ravings



## Peer Support and Psych Services

Victoria police and Ambulance Services want radical change to how their members mental health is treated

The Police Association and Ambulance Employees Australia will announce a concerted political campaign on behalf of Victoria's 18,000 Police and Paramedics

Where a worker suffers post - traumatic stress disorder they want employers to have to prove it was not caused by workplace trauma. Currently it is up to emergency services personnel to show that they got PTSD on the job

The two unions have told Police Minister Lisa Neville that where WorkSafe Victoria disputes such claims much needed treatment can be delayed for years.

The System needs to change so that an emergency services worker who is suffering from PTSD will have their workers compensation claim automatically accepted Police Association Secretary Ron Iddles said.

Ambulance Employees secretary Steve McGhie said ending the adversarial approach to PTSD claims would reduce stress and anxiety for sufferers and enable earlier treatment so the make a speedier recovery and return to work sooner. We know from extensive research and anecdotal evidence that our police, ambulance and firefighters are around 10 times more likely to develop PTSD than the general population.

We, The Association, are looking for Members who would be willing to be trained or retrained in Peer Support and Psych Services to assist in the provision of these services for all Members. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

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## Tony Walker appointed as CEO of Ambulance Victoria

The Board of Ambulance Victoria is pleased to confirm the appointment of Tony Walker to the role of Chief Executive Officer.

Associate Professor Walker has served as CEO of Ambulance Victoria on an acting basis for the past 18 months and was previously a key member of its Executive team for the past eight years.

Ambulance Victoria Chair Ken Lay said: "Tony is a respected leader in the emergency services and health sectors with deep experience and capability, coupled with a passionate commitment to the work and the people that will contribute to the ongoing success of Ambulance Victoria.

"Tony's appointment marks another important step forward as we pursue a program of improvements at Ambulance Victoria to deliver better service to our patients and provide better support for the health, wellbeing, safety and capability of our people at Ambulance Victoria.

