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16 March 2020

To the Secretary of the Legislation Scrutiny Committee

**Re: Return to Work Legislation Amendment Bill 2020**

Firstly I apologise for the delay in this response, however due to COVID 19 planning and the heightened level of activity the due date of 11 March 2020 was inadvertently overlooked. We hope that you will accept this delayed submission from our organisation.

In principle St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. (St John NT) supports the introduction of the new Return to Work Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. However, we would like to raise a point for consideration.

In regards to the definition of First Responder inserted in respect to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) we note that this includes paramedics and will also include our Patient Transport Officers (PTO) who operate as first responders alongside our paramedics to time critical and potentially life threatening situations. We ask that the definition be broadened to include PTOs as they.

We request ask that consideration be given to broadening the definition to include Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) who respond to our Triple Zero (000) calls for assistance and therefore could be considered to be a remote response to the scene of a critical and potentially life threatening response. The Triple Zero (000) calls expose the EMDs to a range of traumatic events including child resuscitations, domestic violence, traumatic vehicle crashes and assaults. Their response to these calls has them administering lifesaving treatment via the telephone including Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation instructions during heightened, traumatic and emotional incidents as well as working with victims of crimes of violence to keep them date until police can respond.

Every year, on average one in six Territorians uses an ambulance and our paramedics, PTOs attend more than 52,000 cases across the NT following an initial EMD response to these calls for help via Triple Zero (000).

Thank you for allowing us to make this submission.

Yours Sincerely



Judith Barker  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc.