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### **Union claims ACT ambulance service understaffed. 07/11/2006. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200611/s1783301.htm>]

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## **Union claims ACT ambulance service understaffed**

The union that represents ambulance workers in the ACT says the service is dangerously understaffed.

The Transport Workers Union (TWU) says at times there have been just five fully staffed ambulances to service the whole of Canberra.

The union's Scott Connelly says officers are regularly being called on to do excessive amounts of overtime.

"One officer who was attending the meeting with us today indicated in the last eight days they've done 138 hours work," he said.

"That's a frightening amount of work and I think something that the rest of the community would be shocked to know."

ACT Emergency Services Minister Simon Corbell disputes the claims and says more officers have been trained and will soon be ready for duty.

Mr Corbell says Canberrans should not be concerned.

"The response times for the ACT are the best in the country," he said.

"I want to send a very clear message that the Government recognises the very hard work and dedication that ambulance officers put in.

"We want to provide additional support, we will continue to look at those issues, but claims that we are massively under-resourced with response times compromised are not true."

The union has called for an independent inquiry into the management of the ambulance service.