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Pratt attacks Corbell over emergency services management. 08/11/2006. ABC News Online

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Pratt attacks Corbell over emergency services management

The ACT Opposition says the shortage of ambulance workers in Canberra is yet another symptom of mismanagement of resources in emergency services.

The Transport Workers Union says officers are working excessive amounts of overtime and response times are suffering.

Emergency Services Minister Simon Corbell says the claims are false and another nine officers will be on duty shortly.

The union has called for an independent inquiry into the management of the service and the Opposition's emergency services spokesman, Steve Pratt, is backing the union's position.

"I give these claims a fair amount of credibility because the union backing the ambulance service doesn't often come out and speak like this," he said.

"They've been particularly quiet for a long time. I think they've done the best they can to work with Government to sort out these outstanding organisational issues. They are clearly frustrated.

"A concern by front line men and women that they're not being well served by their leadership, this is a call we're hearing far too often across the SES, the Rural Fire Service volunteers and now the ambulance services.

"The Government Minister Corbell just don't seem to be able to get on top of the resource management of our emergency services."

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