

## **Australian EMS in an international comparison: a social media experiment**

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*Objective:* to compare Australian EMS systems and their environment with that of the UK & the US

*Methods:* Professionals from three countries (England, Scotland and the United States) were contacted via their online presence (blog and/or twitter account), via personal recommendation and chance encounter. All interviewees were paramedics in their system, additional qualifications included some being supervisors, university lecturers, clinical educators and film makers. All paramedics were interviewed on a set list of questions regarding their subjective experience of working in their area and country. Additional objective information was obtained from clinical guidelines and laws from the respective services, states and countries.

*Conclusion:* Australian EMS systems and structures don't need to shy away from an international comparison, and are leading on many levels. Working conditions, paramedic autonomy, and especially the widespread university-led education are amongst the factors that puts Australia in an excellent position in an international comparison.