



Stat Report 2014/01

Happy New Year

Happy New Year from everyone at the Union! We hope you had a safe and enjoyable festive season.

2014 is already shaping up to be another big year for the Union.

We will continue to fight the Red Cross Blood Service's plans to remove scientists from the testing and processing of blood donations, and to turn the nation's only provider of a safe, reliable blood supply into a factory 'manufacturing' blood.

Plus we'll be working hard to ensure public health remains a pressure point for the state and federal governments, especially with Victorians heading to the polls later this year. One of the big issues from the last state election was public health, and in particular hospital waiting lists, and we expect to see it high on the issues voters are concerned about in 2014. The additional public hospital beds promised by the Liberals have failed to eventuate, as waiting times for hospital treatment increase.. And the pressure on mental health services continues. We need to make sure that public health is a primary focus for this year's Victorian election.

Meanwhile with the Abbott government giving consideration to a proposal for up-front fees to visit the GP, it is clear that the conservatives are gearing up for an attack on the basic underpinnings of Medicare – access for all Australians to affordable health care, irrespective of income, where they live, and their social status.

We're back and fired up and we look forward to working with you all to keep up the fight to protect our rights at work and our professions in 2014.

Dr Rosemary Kelly

Building the Keep Blood Safe campaign in 2014

One of the ways we're continuing to build the Keep Blood Safe campaign is through collecting the stories from members that will and are being affected by the Red Cross Blood Service's plans to cut the number of scientists from testing and processing blood donations.

Do you have a story?

Since beginning this campaign we have collected a number of stories about how the changes at the Red Cross Blood Service's Inventory and Distribution division is already having a flow-on impact for the wider healthcare system. Members working in blood banking in the major healthcare providers have told us about the Blood Service delivering the wrong blood type as well as supplies taking longer than the stipulated 60 minutes for urgent orders.

Do you have a story about how changes at the Red Cross Blood Service are already affecting your work, or could likely affect your work?

If you do, send them to alexs@msav.org.au or call 0432 364 515 - we'll make sure you remain anonymous.

Save our Medicare

While most of Australia was spending time with family and friends over the holiday period, the Abbott government was urged to consider making changes to Medicare that would include charging an up-front fee to visit a bulk-billing GP. This proposal is strongly opposed by the Union as it will harm the poorest and sickest in our communities.

Patient co-payments already account for a shockingly high 17% of health spending in Australia's universal healthcare system. Data presented by the National Health Performance Authority from 2013 shows that 15% of people have delayed seeing a GP because of the cost.

To put things in perspective:

- Over 2.2 million Australians live below the poverty line, including approximately 575,000 children.
- Approximately 27.4% of people with a disability live below the poverty line.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to experience poverty than other Australians.

For millions of Australians, \$6 is simply something they can't afford despite the arguments from proponents of the fee, including Tony Abbott's former policy adviser, that it is only the cost of "a hamburger and fries".

Turning those with the greatest need away from seeking healthcare altogether risks more people visiting hospital emergency wards, adding more strain on the hospital system. In some parts of Australia access to bulk-billing GPs is already difficult with more and more Australians relying on hospital emergency wards for health issues that would normally be dealt with by a GP.

This clearly constitutes an assault on Medicare and our public health system, which will ultimately undermine the universality of Medicare. Rather than denounce such a proposal the federal Health Minister, Peter Dutton, has failed to rule out the option, which would suggest that the Abbott government is seriously considering this proposal.

Together we can stop this proposal from ever becoming reality by standing together.

Join us for a rally on Saturday 11th January from 1pm at the State Library.

You can get more details about the rally at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/493848840727645/?fref=ts>

There is also an online petition to sign and share at: <http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/tony-abbott-keep-health-care-free>

We strongly urge you all to encourage your friends and family to sign the petition and attend the rally on Saturday.

Monthly Direct Debits – Membership Fees

For members who pay their Union fees via Direct Debit, the monthly direct debit payments will be deducted from your nominated bank account or credit card this week.

Usually the Direct Debit payments occur on the first business day of the month. The January payments have been delayed due to the office being closed over the holiday period, reopening on 8th January 2014.

If you have any questions please ring the Union.

Know Your Rights: Payment for Public Holidays over

Christmas

It is important to know their rights about payment for working and not working on Public Holidays, particularly for part timers.

The three Public Holidays during the festive season are:

- Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December 2013
- Boxing Day - Thursday 26th December 2013
- New Year's Day - Wednesday 1st January 2014

Public Sector**

Where a full time employee is rostered for duty on a public holiday are entitled to be paid for the time worked with a minimum of four hours wages at the rate of time and a half in addition to their normal weekly wage i.e. in addition to payment for the day. (Time off in lieu at the penalty rate with a minimum of six hours time off may be taken by agreement, as well as payment for the day). If an employee is entitled to a full working day off, this may be added to annual leave by mutual consent.

Where a full time shift employee is rostered off on a public holiday (i.e. those who are normally rostered over a seven day cycle where a public holiday falls on a Rostered Day Off – i.e. a day when they are not rostered for duty) are entitled to the normal weekly wage plus one and a half days pay (or one and a half days time in lieu) for the public holiday.

For a full time employee, where a public holiday falls on a day on which they normally work but they are not required to work, they are entitled to one day's pay i.e. are paid for the public holiday.

For a part time employee, where a public holiday falls on a day on which they normally work but they are not required to work they are entitled to one day's pay at the number of hours that they normally are rostered on that day.

For a part-time employee, where a public holiday falls on a day when they are never rostered to work, they are entitled to a pro rata payment for the day, where a day means 8 hours, based on the average weekly hours worked over the last 6 months divided by 38

Important news for Pathology Scientists

The National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) develops and maintains the standards for pathology lab accreditation. The Union has been advised that the NPAAC has released revised documents as well as a new publication titled *Requirements for Medical Pathology Services*.

Some of the revised NPAAC documents include:

- Requirements for Cytogenetic Testing
- Requirements for Medical Testing of Human Nucleic Acids
- Requirements for Transfusion Laboratory Practice

For the full list of and access to the revised list of NPAAC documents visit:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-npaac-publication.htm>

Your Union is on Facebook

Keep up to date with what's happening by liking us on Facebook

[Medical Scientists Association of Victoria](#) | [Victorian Psychologists Association Inc](#) | [Association of Hospital Pharmacists](#)

Benefits for Union Members

As a union member, you can take advantage of the collective buying power of more than 1.9 million members to get discounts on a great range of products and services. ACTU Member Connect makes sure the products and services are from companies you can rely on to deliver high-quality products with reliable customer service.

There is more information about a range of other benefits union members can access at <http://www.memberconnect.com.au/> or you can call ACTU Member Connect on 1300 362 223.

Save our Medicare Rally

Send a loud and clear message to Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton to reject any proposals that undermine Medicare and join us on **Saturday (11 Jan) from 1pm at the State Library.**

Keep Blood Safe Hotline

Do you have a story about how changes at the Red Cross Blood Service are already affecting your work, or could likely affect your work?

Send them to alexs@msav.org.au or call 0432 364 515 - we'll make sure you remain anonymous.

Share STAT Report

Is there a copy of STAT Report on your Union noticeboard or in your staff room?

If not print out a copy and leave it on the noticeboard or in the staff room for your colleagues.



[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#)

Authorised by Rosemary Kelly, Executive Officer, Level 1, 62 Lygon St, Carlton South. Medical Scientists Association (03) 9623 9623 Association of Hospital Pharmacists (03) 9623 9624 Victorian Psychologists Association Inc (03) 9623 9625 Fax (03) 9663 8109 Email enquiry@msav.org.au A.B.N. 30 345 343 541 (MSAV), 72 520 393 213 (AHP), 87 851 818 075 (VPA Inc).

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)