



Stat Report 2014/02

Red Cross Blood Service and the Keep Blood Safe campaign in 2014

The new year brings new opportunities for the Keep Blood Safe campaign.

The Union continues to work with individual members to ensure the best possible outcomes as the redeployment process continues. There still remains large gaps in the information management are prepared to share with the Union.

As mentioned late last year, the Union left mediation efforts still unaware of what risk management planning had been done and what would be put into place to ensure the ongoing safety and reliability of the blood supply. Management at the Red Cross Blood Service were also unable to tell the Union what final arrangements were in place for workflows, team coordination and supervision and what rosters would look like.

Rest assured the Union will continue to work on highlighting the issues at the Red Cross Blood Service and will continue to take the lead on the Keep Blood Safe campaign.

Do you have a story?

With the new year there are new opportunities to get media attention on the situation at the Red Cross Blood Service. One of the things that all journalists love is a great story, which we have, and some great examples to show why the story is important.

This is where you come in! If you have a story about how changes at the Red Cross Blood Service are already affecting your work, or could likely affect your work let us know.

If you do, send them to alexs@msav.org.au or call 0432 364 515 – we'll make sure you remain anonymous – and help us to get greater media attention.

Remind your friends and family

Don't forget to remind your friends and family to join the campaign by getting them to sign and share our petition at <http://bit.ly/KeepBloodSafe>

What's happening at Melbourne Health?

Melbourne Health is in the throes of a round of voluntary departure packages.

The Union has been advised that the aim of this process is to cut about \$7-8 million out of the salary budget.

Many positions will be quarantined, due to clinical issues, and there appears to be no clear rationale about who they want to put their hand up.

Melbourne Health has now got clearance from the ATO approving tax treatment as a genuine

redundancy.

Contact the Union if you have any questions.

Personal leave, medical certificates and Western Health

We have been advised by members that HR is attempting to change the way in which personal leave can be claimed, based on the wording of the personal leave clause in the Allied Health Professionals Agreement.

As members know, MSAV members such as audiologists and dietitians are covered by the Victorian Public Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Agreement 2012-2016, which is worded differently and cannot be interpreted the same way.

Any member who has been (wrongly) told that they have to schedule medical appointments on ADOs or annual leave should (a) point out to their manager that they are covered by the Victorian Public Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Agreement 2012-2016 (b) contact the MSAV office immediately.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact the Union.

Calling all Models – Union Promotional Materials

The Union is updating and freshening up the various promotional and member materials we produce. You'll have seen our posters, leaflets and membership forms and it's been a little while since we've updated all of our materials.

We're proud to always include real members in our materials and in order to make sure our materials continue to have real members in them; we're inviting you to nominate yourself to be a model for us.

During the first week of February the Union will be doing a photo-shoot to capture all the pictures we'll need to update our member and promotional materials. It will only take a couple of hours out of your day and the photos will be taken by a professional photographer.

If you're interested in being in the photo-shoot please contact Alex at alexs@msav.org.au or by calling 9623 9623.

The Trans-Pacific Free Trade Agreement

The TPPA is a free trade agreement being negotiated between the US, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, Chile, Peru, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia Vietnam and Japan.

There have been 20 rounds of negotiations since 2010. The US is setting the agenda with extreme demands on behalf of its major industries: higher prices of medicines, the right for foreign investors to sue governments over domestic laws, stronger copyright laws, less local content in film and TV and in government procurement; as well as putting Australia's universal health care system at risk.

There is still no agreement about enforceable labour rights and environmental standards and there continues to be resistance to US proposals. This has meant the deadline for finishing the agreement by the end of 2013 was not met and negotiations will continue into 2014. There are also significant concerns about the ability of multinational corporations being able to take legal action against Australia for enacting laws in order to protect consumers, workers and the environment.

The details of the negotiations are secret, and a major campaign demand is to release the text for public and parliamentary debate before it is signed. The Union supports the campaign to make the negotiations for the TPPA to open and transparent.

If the agreement is signed by Cabinet, it will go to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties for review. but the text cannot be changed.

The only Parliamentary debate will be over the actual legislation required to implement the agreement, which could be in the Parliament March-April 2014.

Victorian Allied Health Research Conference 2014

The Victorian Department of Health presents the inaugural research conference for all allied health disciplines. The conference aims to showcase research from primary, acute and community healthcare settings, from allied health therapy and science disciplines.

The Victorian Allied Health Research Conference 2014 will be the premiere scientific event for allied health professionals and managers to learn about research and service developments that will transform how allied health services are delivered in years to come.

Conference sessions include:

- Allied health service models to improve patient flow
- Leadership, mentoring and supervision
- Consumer empowerment and allied health services
- Managing chronic disease in the community
- From efficacy to effectiveness
- Prioritisation of service in allied health
- Industry collaboration with public allied health services
- Pushing Boundaries: extended scope of allied health practice
- Innovation in allied health education
- Translating evidence to practice
- Inter-professional models of care
- Workforce innovation for meeting future demands
- Is e-Health the way forward?
- Workforce planning for allied health

It is on **Friday 28 March at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre** and you can view the draft program at <http://www.vahrc.com.au/>

Your Union is on Facebook

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Changes to HSU Rules

Members are advised that there have been changes made and accepted to the Health Services Union's Rules and which came into force from January 1, 2014. The changes include placing obligations on Branches and HSU National, including certain mandatory reporting requirements, which further enhances financial accountability.

You can find the latest, updated version of the Rules at http://msav.org.au/documents-mainmenu-29/doc_download/2075-hsu-rules-051v-1-january-2014

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.

Keep Blood Safe Hotline

Do you have a story about how changes at the Red Cross Blood Service are

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.

already affecting your work, or could likely affect your work?

Send them to alex@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.



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