



18 July 2014

## Stat Report 2014/23

### No money for scientists and techs at Healthscope but up to \$14.7 million for the CEO!

We all know that times are tough; well that's what we keep being told by the pathology industry. But there's a certain irony, a cruel irony, when scientists and techs are told that a pay rise of 1.75% for this year (from 1 July, not 1 January) with pay rises of 2% in 2015 and 2016 is a good outcome.

No matter how you cut it, that is a terrible offer. But it gets worse when you consider at the same time, according to a Sydney Morning Herald report on 30 June, Healthscope's CEO, Robert Cooke, "is set to earn up to \$14.7 million in one off payments as a result of a successful listing" on the stock market.

And Healthscope wants "clarifications" of entitlements for a pay rise less than the current rate of inflation which leaves scientists and techs at Healthscope earning less than scientists and techs in the public sector.

We're sure that Mr Cooke works hard for his money. Most CEOs do.

But, when he's getting up to \$14.7 million additional to his annual salary of \$1.5 million, the question of "how much does the company really value your contribution" needs to be seriously asked.

This comes at a time when scientists and techs aren't even being offered CPI while working harder and for longer than in the past.

We've heard all the rhetoric, but clearly there's a problem with priorities when one person can receive incentives many times the value of giving Healthscope's scientists and techs a fair and decent pay rise.

If Healthscope reallocated a small portion of the largesse going into Mr Cooke's pocket, around 10% to 20% of his \$14.7mil, we'd be able to resolve this round of bargaining.

With discussions being less than fruitful last week with Healthscope management, the Union believes that it's time to look at possible industrial action, which can cover a range of activities from wearing t-shirts with slogans, through to bans and right up to workplace stoppages. There will be more about this shortly.

You can read the story in the Sydney Morning Herald about Mr Cooke's big pay day [here](#).

## Dorevitch Pathology will deliver promised pay increases for Scientists

Over the last couple of weeks, STAT Report has carried a story about Dorevitch Pathology promising an increase of a total of 2.5% in pay with an additional 0.25% increase in superannuation contributions, which would be delivered in two instalments over the 2013/2014 financial year.

Upon making queries about when Dorevitch would come good on the promise, the Union was told that the promised pay increase didn't apply to their scientific workforce.

As you can imagine the Union was taken aback by the claim. But we were undeterred and pressed the point that the memo to all staff never pointed out that only some staff would get the promised pay increase.

It was only because of Union intervention that Dorevitch Pathology was forced to admit its error and agree that the scientific workforce was also entitled to the promised pay increase.

The Union will follow up with members at Dorevitch to ensure the promised pay increase has finally been paid in the coming pay cycle.

## Dorevitch Pathology putting patients at risk in Warragul: MSAV

The Medical Scientists Association of Victoria (MSAV) is warning that Gippsland Pathology, a subsidiary of privately-owned Dorevitch Pathology, at Warragul Hospital is failing to employ enough properly qualified scientists to perform critical services thus potentially putting patients at risk.

Paul Elliott, MSAV Assistant Secretary said:

"The Union has been advised that Gippsland Pathology is performing a range of important work from diagnoses to cross matching blood despite not having enough scientists employed with the necessary training and expertise in this highly specialised field.

"This kind of work is life and death stuff. If the wrong blood is given to a patient it can lead to their death. And if the wrong diagnosis is given it can significantly delay a patient getting the right care at the right time.

"Despite raising these very serious concerns with Gippsland Pathology and the Warragul Hospital, we're still receiving reports that staffing levels are so low that emergency out-of-hours' work is being performed by scientific staff who lack the appropriate training and competencies in blood banking

"It is a very serious problem for Warragul Hospital, for Gippsland Pathology and more importantly for the Warragul community.

"If the situation continues, we have very real concerns that Gippsland Pathology will be unable to safely meet normal demands for pathology testing and for cross matching of blood.. And in a major emergency this could have severe ramifications.

"Despite raising our concerns with Gippsland Pathology, the Hospital and the national laboratory accreditation agency we have been advised that no action has been taken to fix the problem.

"It is completely unacceptable for a private pathology service to put hospital patients at risk by failing to ensure that there are scientists with the correct training on-site to undertake the life-saving work it has been contracted to perform.

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“It’s time the Victorian Minister for Health ensured that private pathology providers like Gippsland Pathology put patient safety and welfare ahead of profit making objectives.

## VPA Annual General Meeting and Professional Development

This year’s Annual General Meeting for the VPA and the next Professional Development session will be held on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at the Tracey Centre in Parkville.

The topic for the professional development is “The diagnosis and management of sleep disorders”, which will be presented by Associate Professor Gerard Kennedy.

Associate Professor Gerard Kennedy has extensive expertise in the diagnosis and psychological treatment of sleep disorders. He has developed expertise in sleep psychology during more than 20 years of practice as a senior clinical psychologist in the Department(s) of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at both the Austin Hospital and Monash Medical Centre.

**Save the Date: Wednesday 17 September for the next Professional Development session and the VPA Annual General Meeting**

## No Pay? No Way!

**Join the campaign! Download & use one of our graphics for your email signature to help raise awareness of our campaign.**



OR



## Bust the Budget Rally in Bendigo

Live in or around Bendigo? Help send the Federal Government a strong message that Australians don’t accept their budget cuts and attacks on the young, unemployed, elderly and vulnerable by getting to the Bendigo rally on Tuesday 12 August.

The rally is supported by the Bendigo Trades Hall Council:

**When:** 12:00 pm Tuesday 12 August 2014

**Where:** Bendigo Trades Hall (34 View St, Bendigo)

**What:** Rally and march to ‘Liberal House’

For further information or enquiries, please contact Shaun Rosaia on 03 5443 9055 or visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1385068508420421>

## Victorian Young Workers Conference

The Young Workers Conference is approaching and will be held over two days on 20 and 21 September.

Young workers and union officials are invited to participate in what will be a hands-on weekend of skill sharing and campaign training.

For further information and registration details contact Amy Jenkins on 0424 698 694.

## Victorian Trade Union Choir: "I'll Be There" Pozible Crowdfunding Project

'I'll Be There' is an inspiring music theatre show featuring songs and stories of solidarity that people really connect with. It was created, produced and performed by the Victorian Trade Union Choir in collaboration with award winning playwright Rebecca Lister and our musical director Michael Roper.

The show has already had two sold out seasons in Melbourne at Trades Hall in 2012 and at La Mama in 2013.

Now the Trade Union Choir wants to take 'I'll Be There' to Victorians who have been hard hit by manufacturing closures, floods and fires to encourage, support and inspire people - and give them a good night out!

The Trade Union Choir is working in partnership with La Mama Mobile and local Trades and Labour Councils to take the show to Geelong, Morwell, Portland, Ballarat and Shepparton.

To make sure they can do a Victorian regional tour they've launched a Pozible crowdfunding project and are at the halfway point.

Their goal is to raise \$5000 so the Trade Union Choir can pay award wages to the musical director, stage director and lighting technician, and hire appropriate venues as well other costs.

But to make it happen they need your help. If you love a good choir then this is something that you'll want to support.

Visit the Pozible page to pledge your support at: <http://www.pozible.com/project/183302>

## Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL) Winter Symposium

### **New Act, New Roles: The Mental Health Act 2014 (VIC)**

The ANZAPPL will give attendees to their Winter Symposium the opportunity to hear perspectives from the leaders of key agencies on the practical application and roles of the new Mental Health Act.

Speakers include:

- Lynne Coulson Barr - Mental Health Complaints Commissioner
- Dr Mark Oakley Browne - Chief Psychiatrist, Victoria
- Matthew Carroll - President, Mental Health Tribunal

Following on from the speakers, a panel discussion will be facilitated by Professor Jim Ogloff

### **Event Details:**

**Date:** 2 August 2014

**Time:** 1:30pm to 6pm

**Venue:** Victoria University Conference Centre, Level 12, 300 Flinders St, Melbourne

For details about this event contact ANZAPPL on 9349 2220 or email [info@conorg.com.au](mailto:info@conorg.com.au)

## Reminder: Tests ordered by GPs & Specialists can be taken to any pathology provider

It's a truth that we'll all at some stage need to visit our GP. You will know that some GPs use Dorevitch Pathology forms when they send you for tests.

But remember: you don't have to use Dorevitch Pathology; you can go to any pathology service provider. It's your choice. This includes using a public pathology provider such as (for example) St Vincent's Pathology; Melbourne Health Pathology or Monash Health (Southern Cross Pathology), all of which have collection centres at their hospitals as well as in the community.

Remember to ask your referring doctor to tick the bulk billing box so that you are not up for any out-of-pocket expenses if you choose to go to a private provider.

Public pathology services all bulk bill patients- so you will not be up for any out-of-pocket expense if you chose a public pathology provider.

### Worth Reading

<http://www.choice.com.au/reviews-and-tests/food-and-health/general-health/health-practitioners/pathology-gap-fees.aspx>

## 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](#)



**Get Active! Help change Victoria!**

### **Here's what's happening in the campaign this week:**

**Saturday, 19 July – Doorknocking in Bentleigh.** The campaign team is heading to Bentleigh to knock on doors and talk with residents about the issues that matter to them.

[Read more](#)

**Monday, 21 July – Bellarine Phone Bank.** If you live in Geelong you can join the team at Geelong Trades Hall to call union members in the Bellarine electorate.

## 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.

[Read more](#)

**Monday, 21 July – Phone Bank.** Support the campaign and speak to union members in Victoria about the campaign and the issues that matter to them.

[Read more](#)

**Wednesday, 23 July – Monbulk Train Station.** If you're keen you can join the campaign team to speak to commuters in Monbulk about the emergency services crisis in Monbulk.

[Read more](#)

**Wednesday, 23 July – Phone Bank.** Support the campaign and speak to union members in Victoria about the campaign and the issues that matter to them.

[Read more](#)

**Friday, 25 July – Bentleigh Train Station.** If you're keen you can join the campaign team to speak to commuters in Bentleigh about the emergency services crisis.

[Read more](#)

**Volunteer at:** <http://www.weareunion.org.au/volunteer>

## 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.



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