



25 July 2014

Stat Report 2014/24

Inflation up, cost of living up but not wages

Earlier this week it was announced that inflation had risen to 3 per cent. As it turns out the Australian economy continues to show resilience to uncertain international economic conditions. It was also revealed that the Consumer Price Index has also increased.

With the increase in the inflation rate and the Consumer Price Index we can expect to see ordinary daily purchases becoming more expensive. Clearly we are all going to face further increases in the cost of living; and this is despite being regularly reassured by the Napthine and Abbott Governments that they're reducing the costs of living.

The increases came as result of increases in the cost of housing; health and medical expenses; clothing and footwear and for household goods and services. The report also indicated that childcare costs rose by 7.6 percent over the last year, one of the biggest cost increases for many families.

Unfortunately wages are not increasing to keep up with the ever increasing costs of living. And this is only set to get worse as the Napthine Government limits wage increases to only 2.5%.

The release of this economic data also lends further weight to Union claims for the need to increase wages to ensure, at the very least, they're in line with increases in the cost of living.

But however you slice the data it is clear that despite Government promises, the cost of living continues to increase while wages are stagnating or going backwards adding greater pressure onto already stretched households.

What Have The Unions Ever Done For Us?

The Union works to protect and further all of our interests – to protect our rights at work and our professions. But there are lots of people that seem to have forgotten the achievements that Unions, working with members, have made for all working Australians.

Fortunately there is a great video that lists some of these many achievements. It's not a long video but it sure is an entertaining video.



If you enjoyed this video make sure you share it with your colleagues and remind them how important it is to be a member of the Union.

VPA Annual General Meeting and Professional Development

This year's Annual General Meeting for the VPA and the next Professional Development seminar 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

To register your interest for the VPA PD and AGM please contact Alex at alexs@msav.org.au

Following up on Commitments from Annual Conference

At this year's Annual Conference we put the major political parties on notice that we would write to them seeking their commitment to:

1. Restoring full funding to the Victorian healthcare system to recognise the investment needed in the health workforce, not just infrastructure;
2. Ensuring Victorians are not charged a co-payment for visits to Hospital emergency departments
3. Halting the employment of allied health assistants until a full investigation into Victorian health outcomes has been completed given the introduction and subsequent expansion of allied health assistants in hospitals and community health centres.

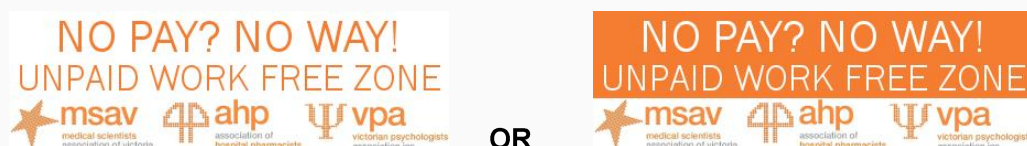
4. No contracting out or outsourcing of clinical services to the private and not-for-profit sectors.
5. Considering the return of pathology services outsourced to private providers to the public sector
6. Enforcing existing contractual deliverables under contracts with private pathology providers including on-site testing and turn-around times.
7. Ensuring that our workplaces through proper staffing to guarantee workloads are fair and reasonable and eliminates duress and injury through excessive workloads.
8. Redressing the current high levels of unpaid work performed by public health workers.

Unfortunately we're still awaiting responses from the major political parties. While some may say, "what did you expect" we do expect that political parties want to have a stronger healthcare system so Victorians can get the highest quality care when they need it.

If, or when, the Union receives responses we will publish them in STAT Report.

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

The Real Story about our Professions



The We Are Union campaign wants to make sure that Victorian voters get the real stories from workers about what's at stake if the Napthine Government is returned in this year's election.

The Union has a great opportunity to contribute to these stories and we want to make sure our stories and voices are included.

If you're interested in contributing your real story about how the Napthine Government is making your working life more difficult and damaging our healthcare system please contact Alex Schlotzer on 9623 9623 or at alexs@msav.org.au

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.

Worth Reading: “Lifters And Leaners: The Real Welfare Bludgers”

Joe Hockey recently stated that Australia needed to be a nation of “lifters, not leaners”.

This thinly veiled attack on the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society is consistent with the ideology contained within the government's latest budget.

This rhetoric is regularly affirmed by mainstream media outlets, with programs such as A Current Affair spending a considerable chunk of air time attacking “dole bludgers”, people who are able to work but choose not to, having their income handed to them by the tax payers.

Read the full article by Peter Thrupp in New Matilda at:

<https://newmatilda.com/2014/07/22/lifters-and-leaners-real-welfare-bludgers>

Worth Reading: “Half of working mothers face discrimination at work, study finds”

Half of working mothers and more than a quarter of fathers have faced discrimination during pregnancy, parental leave or return to work, a government report says.

Led by sex discrimination commissioner Elizabeth Broderick, the study released on Friday found “indisputable evidence” that discrimination around having children continues to be a “widespread and systemic issue which inhibits the full and equal participation of working parents, and in particular, women, in the labour force”.

Read the full article by Helen Davidson in The Guardian at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/25/half-working-mothers-discrimination-work-study>

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Get Active! Help change Victoria!

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

Saturday, 26 July – Activist Training. Join with others to get skilled up in how to have a real impact in your community

and help change Victoria.

[Read more](#)

Saturday, 26 July – Ocean Grove Street Stall. Join other volunteers to talk with locals about the cuts to emergency services and health.

[Read more](#)

Saturday, 26 July – Frankston Street Stall. Join local firefighters, paramedics, and nurses telling the real story on the Emergency Services and Health.

[Read more](#)

Saturday, 26 July – Monbulk Street Stall. Join local paramedics, firefighters and volunteers who are telling the real story on the Emergency Services crisis in Monbulk.

[Read more](#)

Sunday, 27 July – Patterson Lakes Street Stall. Join other volunteers to talk with locals about the cuts to emergency services and health.

[Read more](#)

Monday, 28 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](#)

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.

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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