



17 October 2014

Stat Report 2014/36

Less than 50 days until State Election and no Coalition health commitments

The Union is very concerned that the Napthine Coalition Government has not produced any policies on healthcare with less than 50 days to go before Victorians elect their next Government.

The Napthine Government delivered nothing (other than funding cuts) in this year's budget to address the state's health problems; and treats Victorians with contempt by not releasing policies so all Victorians know how Napthine intends to deliver world-class healthcare.

Having shiny advertisements and nicely worded media releases about healthcare doesn't mean anything without the policies behind them to deliver world's best healthcare. And to date we have seen nothing from the Napthine Government about how it's going to deliver world's best healthcare when it has slashed health funding by \$850 million.

The Napthine Government can't expect to improve health outcomes by only investing in bricks and mortar while ignoring the need for highly qualified staff, and standing by as essential services, like pathology, are privatised.

The Union wants to make sure Victoria has the best and brightest scientists, psychologists and pharmacists working in our hospitals and community health centres delivering high quality outcomes for patients.

But to truly improve health care outcomes for Victorians, the State government must invest in its workforce; fix critically high workloads & turnover; stop outsourcing services to providers only interested in profits; and end the dumbing down of the workforce required to deliver quality health outcomes to patients.

The Union calls on the Napthine Government to release its policies on healthcare, rethink its healthcare spending and focus on rebuilding the professional health workforce needed to meet growing demand.

Budget Cuts Cost Jobs at Austin Health

The sinister impact of state and federal government cuts in health funding is starting to emerge. Austin Health has announced two scientists in the pathology department at the Austin Hospital will be made redundant, using the standard rationale of "restructuring" of services to justify the job losses.

Austin Health's documentation describing the changes and explaining the reason for these reveals that "budget imperatives" is in fact the core reason for the redundancies. Two highly skilled and trained scientists, with a total of 20 plus years of experience, are lost because

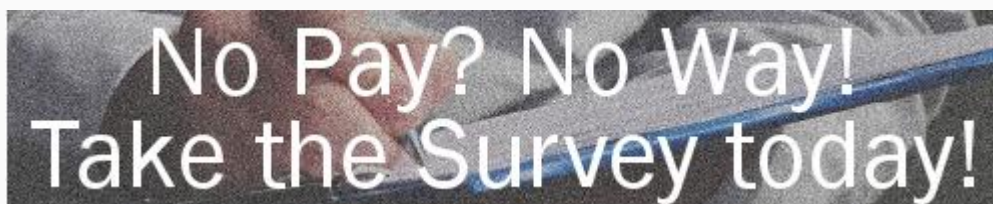
hospital management respond to government funding cuts by going straight to the corporate response, cut jobs, rather than give a thought for any innovative option that might achieve the savings and save jobs.

Typically, no consideration is given to how work will be performed other than an expectation that whoever is left in the laboratory will perform the work of those made redundant. In fact Austin Health admits the work of the Grade 2 scientist will remain but will be “covered” by other scientists.

No Pay? No Way! Survey

It is vital that we continue to gather information for our “No Pay? No Way!” campaign to help us build up our campaign for more staff and reduced workloads. And the more information we have the stronger our arguments are for staff increases and reductions in workloads.

That’s why it’s so important that you participate in the survey and let us know how unpaid work is impacting on you.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L73NLQP>

Show your support for the campaign by downloading & using one of our graphics for your email signature.



OR



Share your story and stand up to the Napthine Government

It’s clear every worker has been let down by the Napthine Government.

But union members just like you are standing up to the government by sharing their experiences about what budget cuts mean to them and Victoria.

Be a part of the We Are Union campaign to highlight workers’ voices this election. Share your story at: http://www.therealstory.org.au/share_story

Worth Reading: “Future of universal health care on the line”

“As international affairs continue to dominate news coverage, the debate is taking shape to determine the future of universal health care in Australia.

After much bluff and bluster, some of the players showed at least part of their hand last week and the poker game will continue for some time.

The proposed \$7 GP co-payment announced in the May budget has been decried by Labor

as a GP Tax and opposed (so far) by Clive Palmer, "because all Australians must be allowed free access to hospitals and doctors regardless of their economic circumstances".

Last week's Essential Poll found that approval for the \$7 co-payment now sits at 27 per cent with 66 per cent disapproval.

Plans to cut \$20 billion from future hospital funding to the states is even more unpopular, with 12 per cent in support and 81 per cent disapproval."

Read the entire article by Darrin Barnett at The ABC's The Drum at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-14/barnett-future-of-universal-health-care-on-the-line/5808638>

Worth Reading: Are We Working To Live, Or Living To Work? Time Should Be on Our Side

"The Australian economy has been growing for 22 uninterrupted years. This means that the average Australian today produces 60 per cent more economic output in a year, than they did in 1993 in real terms (World Bank). But what do we have to show for this massive increase in output? If we look at the ways in which we are spending our time, it would seem, that we are becoming less free in many ways."

Read the entire article by Marty Wieczorek at New Matilda at:

<https://newmatilda.com/2014/10/15/are-we-working-live-or-living-work-time-should-be-our-side>

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](#)

We Are Union - Get Active! Help change Victoria!

Saturday, 18 October – Bellarine Doorknocking Blitz:

Join emergency service workers, health workers and teachers out telling the real story on the cuts to jobs and services under Napthine and how that impacts on our community. You don't need any experience, you'll receive training and materials on the day.

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Saturday, 18 October – Monbulk Doorknocking Blitz:

We're heading out to Monbulk to make a difference! You don't need any experience, you'll receive training and materials on the day.

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Sunday, 19 October – Cheltenham Rotary Market: Join us to greet Sunday shoppers at Cheltenham Rotary Market!

We will be speaking with locals about the wrecking ball that the Liberals have taken to Victoria's jobs, emergency services, schools and healthcare.

[Volunteer here now.](#)

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.

Monday, 20 October – Victorian Trades Hall Phone Bank:

We're aiming to call 500 union members in marginal seats across Victoria, to speak with them about their key issues in this Victorian State Election year.

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Tuesday, 21 October – Frankston Train Station

Leafleting: Join Paramedics, Firefighters and Nurses at Frankston station leafleting and talking to local commuters about the Emergency Services and Health crisis in Victoria!

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Wednesday, 22 October – Victorian Trades Hall Phone

Bank: We're aiming to call 500 union members in marginal seats across Victoria, to speak with them about their key issues in this Victorian State Election year.

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Thursday, 23 October – Lilydale Train Station Leafleting:

Join your fellow unionists to tell the real story on Health, Emergency Services and Education to Monbulk voters.

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Thursday, 23 October – Parkdale Train Station

Leafleting: We Are Union volunteers will be joining professional firefighters and paramedics to speak with commuters about the Emergency Services crisis in Victoria - just 37 days out from the State Election!

[Volunteer here now.](#)

Thursday, 23 October – Bentleigh Train Station

Leafleting: Join us to inform commuters in the marginal seat of Bentleigh about Napthine's cuts to emergency services, in support of local firefighters and paramedics!

[Volunteer here now.](#)



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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