



Stat Report 2016/12

Annual Conference 2016

Join us for Annual Conference on 10 June at the Downtowner on Lygon and share your experiences.

The Union will explore some key themes in the health sector affecting our workplaces like workplace cultures that give rise to people feeling anxiety, stress and exhaustion. The conference will explore how we can work together to tackle the issue of unpaid work and workloads.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IS COMING! ARE YOU?
10 JUNE - 9AM TO 4PM**

The conference will also cover what rights you have during enterprise bargaining. This will be relevant to all members actively involved during negotiations. And conference is a great opportunity to meet up with other members to share experiences and stories to help strengthen our collective work.

The Conference is open and free to all members. RSVP today at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/bUe0q5aZzU>

Election 2016 is the Health Election

Now that the election has been officially called it is vital that we ensure that healthcare is given a very high priority. Even though healthcare is regularly one of the key issues Australians think about when they head to the polls, it's absolutely essential that we ensure it is the key issue this election.

The Budget handed down by the Turnbull Government last week (3 May) did nothing to change the radical cuts to healthcare proposed by the Abbott Government. In fact, the Turnbull Government's budget ensures that healthcare loses more funding. Not only is the Turnbull Government going ahead with the freeze on Medicare rebates, the government is also keeping in place its decision to cut the bulk-billing incentive for pathology tests. These two measures will ensure that patients are being charged a co-payment when they see their GP; and then they'll be charged an up-front fee to get tests done. There is absolutely no way for the Turnbull Government to spin this other than it being an attack on the healthcare of all Australians. And despite the strong rhetoric from the Turnbull Government, it is obvious that increasing the cost of seeing a GP and increasing the cost of pathology tests will somehow lead to a better healthcare system.

We're already hearing rumours that GPs are charging co-payments and there are rumours coming out of Western Australia that St John of God has begun charging a \$30.00 up-front fee for pathology tests.

The Turnbull Government is recklessly damaging our universal healthcare system for the sake of giving the big end of town more tax cuts. It's galling to know that vulnerable people will be denied the healthcare they need so that big business pays even less tax, especially after the revelations that big business goes to great lengths to avoid paying their fair share of tax in Australia.

Since coming to power in 2013, the Coalition quickly set about wrecking the public healthcare system. In their first budget we saw the Coalition government slash millions out of healthcare funding; and the cuts didn't stop in the budget handed down last year or this year. And as the Turnbull Government maintains and extends the cuts to healthcare it's important to understand that each time the government cuts funding, it adds to the pressure you feel at work.

Each cut to funding means that our public health services are under more pressure to keep delivering world-class healthcare with much less. And as the pressure grows, public health services are being forced to make tough choices about how far they're prepared to let our healthcare slide.

Let's face it; the tough choices public health services are making are fundamentally about the future of our professions and the future of our work and careers. We know that when the pressure is really on, public health services will prioritise doctors and nurses ahead of medical

scientists, dietitians, psychologists and pharmacists and others. Everyone working in healthcare is essential to giving patients the very best care possible so they can return to good health. By picking and choosing which clinical services will be cut, public health services are effectively determining the level of healthcare we will get.

Every cut to health made by the Turnbull Government has major flow on impacts for our health care and for our jobs. This election it is vital to that we ensure health is a top election issue.

Enrol to Vote

A federal election will be held on Saturday 2 July 2016. All Australian citizens aged 18 years or over are required to enrol and vote in this election.

The deadline to enrol or update your details is 8pm Monday 23 May 2016. Check your enrolment at: <http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/>

ELECTION 2016

To enrol for the first time or get back on the roll, you can enrol online. And to do that you'll need to have your ID handy like your driver's licence, Australian passport number or have someone who is enrolled confirm your identity.

It is compulsory by law for all eligible Australian citizens to enrol and vote in federal elections, by-elections and referendums. You are eligible to enrol if you:

- are an Australian citizen, or eligible British subject,
- aged 18 years and over, and
- have lived at your address for at least one month.
- If you are 16 or 17 you can enrol now so when you turn 18 you'll be able to vote.

There are special arrangements in place for people who become Australian citizens after a federal election has been announced that allows them to become provisional electors.

Visit the AEC's website to check that you're enrolled properly at <http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/>

We Are Union – Join the Campaign

The federal election has been called and there are lots of ways you can get involved to help protect Medicare and Australia's universal healthcare system.

Joining the We Are Union campaign means you'll be helping to make sure that more voters hear about the cuts to essential services, the cuts to education and the cuts to healthcare. Plus it's your opportunity to speak with voters about the Liberals forcing up the cost of pathology tests.

The We Are Union campaign is already firing up for what's going to be one of the longest election campaigns in Australian history.

Check out what's happening and how you can get involved at:

<http://www.weareunion.org.au/when>

Profiling your work and educating the public

For many people health care is defined by doctors and nurses because they are the professionals most visible to people who access health care. But as people inside the health industry, we know that it takes many people in many professions to deliver world-class health care.

It's important that more people have a better understanding of the many different professionals it takes to deliver world-class health care. That's why the Union is creating member profiles so we can better educate people about the many different professionals working in health care.

If you're interested in participating in this project please contact Alex on 9623 9623 or at alexs@msav.org.au



Support the Healthy Futures campaign

The Union strongly believes that climate change is union business. We know that climate change threatens our health by increasing the risks of heatwaves, bushfires, droughts and storms, displacing people and

straining our health systems.

And right now HESTA and First State Super (FSS), Australia's biggest health industry super funds, are investing our money in fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas.

Join us in asking HESTA and FSS to divest from fossil fuels at www.healthyfutures.net.au/divest.

We know that if enough of us raise our voices, HESTA will do the right thing for health and help pave the way to a safe and healthy future.

Need a holiday? APHEDA can help.

Buy a ticket to your dreams with an APHEDA raffle ticket [BUY ONLINE NOW](#)

Your support is vital in keeping Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA independent, effective and strong and helps build unions and social movements, provide skills training and create jobs in over 60 projects in 15 countries. The Federal Government has slashed aid funding so now more than ever we need your support.

GREAT PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE: \$8000 travel voucher

SECOND PRIZE: top of the range bicycle valued at \$2,199 from Gazelle.

THIRD PRIZE: a \$500 voucher from Gleebooks, Sydney's leading independent bookseller

Buy tickets online and save APHEDA the costs of postage: <http://apheda.org.au/raffle/>

For a little added incentive we have a booksellers' bonus draw – for every 3 books of tickets you sell (or buy yourself) will give you an entry into an exclusive draw to win a gorgeous Gazelle Bicycle, valued at \$2,199 and the top individual bookseller will receive a travel voucher for \$1,000.

You can request or purchase additional ticket books by FREECALL 1800 888 674, fax (02) 9261 1118 or email office@apheda.org.au

Psychologists: If you need help at work you need the VPA Inc.

If you are a psychologist and not in the VPA, you are taking unnecessary risks with your reputation and career. [Download an application form and join today.](#)

Common beaches of employment entitlements and negotiation of enterprise agreements

In addition to the above, VPA routinely assists members over issues such as harassment and

bullying, under classification, organisational re-structuring, incorrect calculation of leave entitlements and health and safety. In addition, it negotiates enterprise agreements for psychologists in the public and private sectors to ensure that rates of pay and conditions remain up to date.

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Worth Reading: Women left behind by a budget that does little to redress inequality

“Once upon a time, there was a [Women’s Budget Statement](#), started under Bob Hawke in 1983 but stopped in 2013. Were it still extant, it would have little to say.

Despite some puffery, the 2016 budget has done very little to remedy women’s structural disadvantages that derive from gender inequities. These arise when women earn less [for full-time work](#) (17%), do fewer paid hours, and do more of the unpaid care of others.

These inequities need policies that can ensure women are not financially punished because of their unpaid contributions. The 2016 budget dealt with a related issue in superannuation, in which it tried to take credit for remedying an earlier error. It has basically reintroduced a compensation to low-income earners for excessive taxing of their contributions.

This may sound like a gain for women, but it is really only avoiding an expected loss.”

Read the entire article by Eva Cox in The Conversation at: <http://theconversation.com/women-left-behind-by-a-budget-that-does-little-to-redress-inequality-58856>

Worth Reading: Election explainer: what does it mean that we’re having a double-dissolution election?

“Malcolm Turnbull has made the journey to Government House at Yarralumla to [ask the governor-general](#) to dissolve both houses of parliament and hold a double-dissolution election.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives will be dissolved. The writs will be issued,

causing the election to be held.

[Section 5](#) of the Constitution requires the governor-general to issue the writ for the House of Representatives election. [Section 12](#) of the Constitution requires the state governors to issue the writs for the election of the senators in each state.

While the writs will formally set out the timeline for the election process, we already know the key detail: a double-dissolution election, to be held on July 2.”

Read the entire article by Adam Webster in The Conversation at:

<http://theconversation.com/election-explainer-what-does-it-mean-that-were-having-a-double-dissolution-election-56671>

Worth Reading: The other budget

“Greenland is [melting](#). The Barrier Reef is turning white from the heat. Ecosystems across Australia are [collapsing](#) as the climate changes. An area of Canada [bigger than Singapore](#) is being consumed by wildfires. Dams in India have [armed guards](#) as a fierce drought makes people desperate for water. March and April were the hottest months ever recorded across the planet. Melting polar ice has literally [knocked the Earth off its axis](#). We have caused this [by burning fossil fuels](#), and all available evidence suggests that it’s only going to get worse from here.”

Last week Scott Morrison delivered a budget that appeared to relate to life on some other planet, one where none of this is happening or important. His speech to parliament was big on *jobs*, *growth* and the *future* but somehow made no mention of *climate* or *environment*.”

Read the entire article by Michael Lucy in The Monthly at:

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/blog/michael-lucy/2016/09/2016/1462776394/other-budget>

Join the Union

Are your workloads increasing? Are your stress levels increasing? Are you doing longer hours at work? Is your workload increasing?

You’re not alone. To protect our professions and stand up for our rights at work we must strengthen our collective voice and strengthen our bargaining position by increasing our membership.

And you can help right now by sharing one of the images below through Facebook.



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[Share on Facebook](#)

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 the most out of the Union's website

The Union's website has a number of special features for members. These features, like the Members section and the Forums, require you to have a log-in and password.

But to ensure that your privacy is protected we have created the website in such a way that you will need a separate log-



Share STAT

in and password for the Members section and the Forums section. It might seem to be inconvenient but it does better protect you and your private information. It also means that we can be more certain about the source of a hack if such an event is ever to arise.

Australian Unions Member Benefits app

Over the last month Australian Unions launched some new and exclusive Member Benefits - did you see our recent email telling you about this? If not, check your inbox! Search for "Lifestyle Rewards" for your login code.

Our program has expanded to include:

- Discounted movie tickets for Village, Hoyts, Palace and Event cinemas.
- Discounted electronic gift cards including major theme parks, zoos and aquariums.
- A discounted accommodation booking site.
- A new secure member only website and smart phone app.

All this is free to all members of affiliated unions. If you have not got a login and would like join in [register for Member Benefits now](#).

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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