



Stat Report 2016/14

Health is emerging election issue

The Turnbull Government spent this week attempting to show voters it is serious about healthcare. Unfortunately the reality is that the Government has no plans on taking healthcare seriously.

Last week the Turnbull Government was trying to claim that giving private pathology providers assistance with their collection centre rent would somehow mean they won't charge up-front fees for tests. And this week we had the Turnbull Government trying to make the case that it was the fault of Treasury that they couldn't take away the Medicare freeze they had implemented.

Let's not forget that the Turnbull Government slashed billions of dollars from hospitals and primary care while at the same time instituting a freeze on Medicare rebates. It was remarkable to read in the media that Health Minister Sussan Ley also thought freezing Medicare rebates was not a good idea. But instead of owning up to the mistake like adults, Sussan Ley instead chose to blame Treasury for not letting the government unfreeze the rebates. To put it simply, Sussan Ley must not understand her job if she doesn't know that Treasury does as the Government dictates. If the Turnbull Government truly believed that a freeze on Medicare rebates was a bad idea they could remove them without Treasury's prior approval.

The Turnbull Government also attempted to sound tough on mental health and suicide prevention but failed to outline any policies or how they would tackle these issues. But here to the reality is that the Turnbull Government slashed millions of dollars from mental health and family violence services. And when the Prime Minister was put on the spot he refused to commit to a national suicide prevention program.

It's simply not good enough for Malcolm Turnbull and Sussan Ley to make un-supported claims about how they're improving our healthcare system to make it sustainable. It's especially galling when the reality is since coming to power in 2013, the Abbott-Turnbull coalition have slashed billions from public hospitals, put a freeze on Medicare rebates, increased the cost medicines (including co-payments for some PBS-listed medicines) and increased the cost of getting pathology tests and diagnostic imaging tests done. The reality is that our universal healthcare system is sustainable and there is no reason to pursue drastic measures that make accessing healthcare more expensive. The Turnbull Government

As the campaign continues it's clear that health is becoming a very serious issue for Australian voters. Working in health care you know how much harder it has become to deliver the quality healthcare we know can be delivered because of continuous cuts to health. And you know what it's like to feel the pressure as workloads explode with greater expectations that you'll do more unpaid work.

And we can help make an impact and ensure this election is about healthcare by sharing our stories with our friends and family.

Annual Conference 2016

We want you to 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 our workplaces like workplace cultures that give rise to people feeling anxiety, stress and exhaustion. We'll also explore how we can work together to tackle the issues of unpaid work and exploding workloads.

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

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

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

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

We Are Union – Join the Campaign

The federal election is in full swing and there are lots of ways you can 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 and increasing the cost of visiting their GPs.

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

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

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.

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.

Worth Reading: How reducing penalty rates will affect workers' health

“Despite only being two weeks into an eight-week election campaign, [penalty rates](#) have already become a [significant issue](#), with Labor so far refusing to guarantee it will [keep](#) Sunday penalty rates for hospitality and retail workers.

Penalty rates are often cast as a roadblock to [business](#) or [employment](#) but [public health researchers](#) see penalty rates as a deterrent against employing workers in ways that risk workers' health.”

Read the entire article by Olav Muurlink in The Conversation at:

<https://theconversation.com/how-reducing-penalty-rates-will-affect-workers-health-59585>

Worth Reading: Solar efficiency goes through the roof with UNSW world-first

“We love a world-first here at CSIRO. Every day, our scientists are working to crack the next best thing to benefit the nation. Back in 2014 in the energy domain, we were the first to create super critical steam at the hottest temperature ever outside of fossil fuel sources. Instead, we used concentrating solar thermal technology (a field of heliostat mirrors that concentrate heat from the sun). That’s pretty darn impressive as it shines the light on, or in this case, steams up the conversation about the critical role the sun plays for a low emissions energy future in Australia.

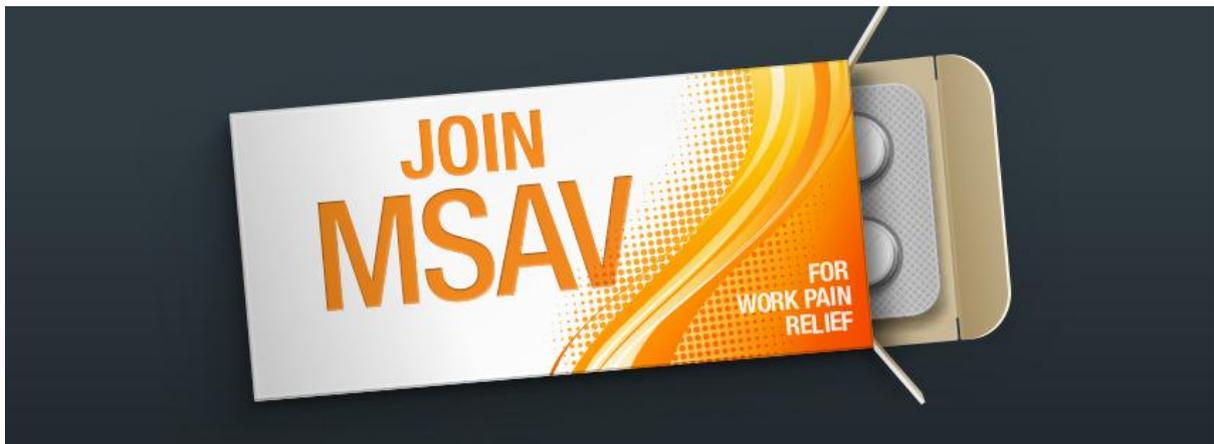
Another world-first was achieved this week by our friends at the University of New South Wales, in particular the researchers’ Professor Martin Green and Dr Mark Keevers, who have found a way to improve the light-gathering ability of solar cells.”

Read the entire article by Natalie Kikken at the CSIRO Blog at: <https://blog.csiro.au/unsw-solar-world-first/>

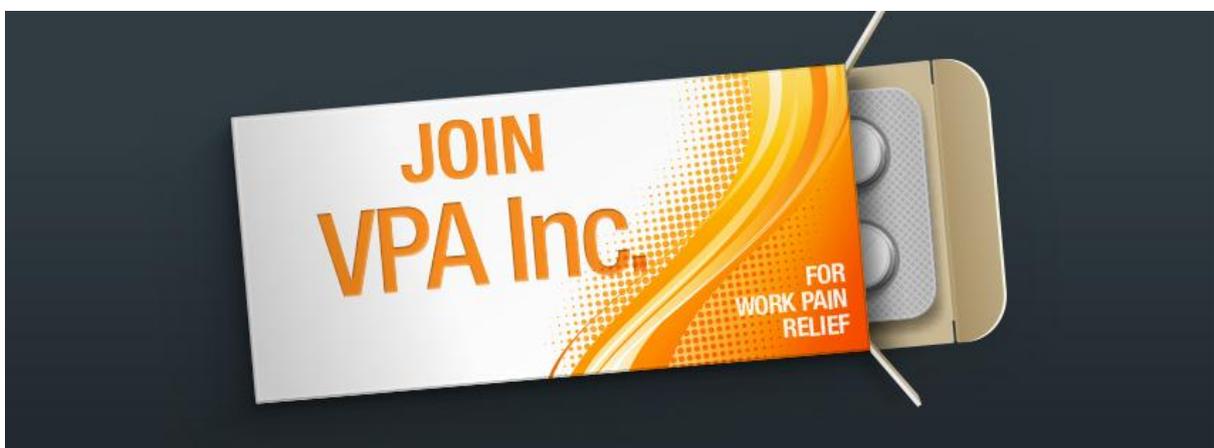
Join the Union

Are your workloads increasing? Are your stress levels increasing? Are you doing longer hours at work? Join the Union for work pain relief!

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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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-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.



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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.](#)

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