



Stat Report 2016/29

LRH leadership complicit in diminishing pathology standards

More evidence has come to light showing the leadership at Latrobe Regional Hospital were very aware of the impact that Dorevitch's poor turn-around-times for tests were having on the hospital, including the Emergency Department.

The Union has received new information that shows clearly, and unequivocally, that the CEO of Latrobe Regional Hospital had strong concerns about the inability of Dorevitch to meet the turn-around-times set out in their contract. It has also come to light that senior staff in the Emergency Department were very concerned about delays in turn-around-times for troponin tests.

But instead of insisting that Dorevitch meet the standards required by the hospital, the LRH leadership decided to lower the standards. LRH leadership changed the turn-around-times standard required of Dorevitch, which has inevitably lead to longer delays in getting test results. And without test results it's not possible for treating clinicians to begin treatment.

In effect, LRH's leadership decided it was more convenient to lower standards of healthcare in the Latrobe Valley then enforce their contract with Dorevitch. And it is another reason why the Union strongly resists any and all efforts to outsource and privatise pathology laboratories in public hospitals.

The Union will continue to press the Andrews Government to make sure public hospitals stop outsourcing and privatising vital clinical services in our public hospitals.

What's happening with Christmas?

The Victorian Government has acknowledged the decision to not make Christmas Day a public holiday might have been a mistake. And we've all read the reports that the Andrews Government is reconsidering their position.

But the Victorian Government, despite its admission, is still to declare Christmas Day as a public holiday, even after it was supported by Shadow Treasurer Michael O'Brien. A strange twist to see the Victorian LNP support workers being compensated for missing out on Christmas celebrations with friends and family.

Help keep the pressure on the Government to make Christmas Day a public holiday so that people can plan their budgets for the holiday period and be compensated for missing out on their families' Christmas celebrations.

Make your voice heard – make Christmas Day a public holiday –

<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/don-t-be-a-grinch-make-christmas-a-public-holiday>

Help save Paid Parental Leave

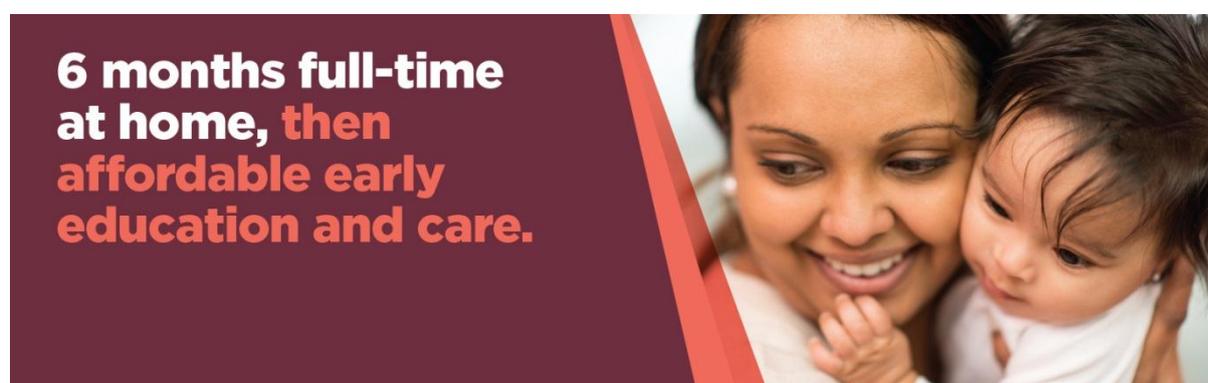
In the last edition of STAT Report we wrote about the latest attempt by the Coalition Government to wind back hard won paid parental leave provisions.

The paid parental leave scheme was always designed to be a complementary measure to those schemes already offered by employers. And where those employer schemes didn't cover 26 weeks of paid parental leave, the government topped up those provisions. No families are double-dipping. None.

But if these proposed changes go through the Parliament it will result in tens of thousands of families losing out and forcing parents back into the workforce sooner without the availability of adequate childcare options. This will only cause greater stress and could actually result in a reduction in workforce participation as women, predominantly the primary care-giver, are unable to find childcare. Ultimately it will make it more difficult for families to make ends meet.

Sign the petition telling the Senate to save paid parental leave at:

<http://www.australianunions.org.au/ppl>



NPAAC public consultation on Requirements for the Clinical Governance and Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories

The National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) has released the *Requirements for the Clinical Governance and Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories (Fourth Edition 20xx)* for public consideration and comment. A copy of the draft document, and associated information, is available from the NPAAC website at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-npaac-publications-draft.htm>

NPAAC is seeking the views of the pathology sector and interested parties on the draft Requirements for Governance and Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories (Fourth Edition 20XX) with a view to finalising the document.

The public consultation period closes Friday, 25 November 2016 and details on how to make a submission can be found on the website mentioned above.

Should you have any further queries, please direct them to the NPAAC Secretariat via email at npaac@health.gov.au

Nominations open for AHP Committee

Notice is hereby given to all Members of the Association of Hospital Pharmacists that nominations for election to the AHP Committee are now open. To be eligible to nominate you must be a financial member of the AHP.

The positions that are open for election are:

- Two (2) Members of the Committee

Note that the two (2) Committee positions are for two (2) year terms.

Candidates must have two (2) financial members support the nomination.

To obtain a nomination form please email enquiry[at]ahpv.asn.au

Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer in writing no later than 5pm on 16 December 2016.

Completed nominations can be sent to:
The Returning Officer
Level 1, 62 Lygon St
Carlton South, VIC, 3053

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.

Do you need access to Domestic Violence services?

If you're experiencing domestic violence and need help, here is a list of Victorian services which may be able to assist you.

[Safe Steps \(formerly Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria\)](#)

[Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria \(FVPLS\)](#)

[Centre Against Sexual Assault \(CASA\) Forum](#)

[Community Legal Centres](#)

[Court Network](#)

[Domestic Violence Victoria](#)

[Elder Rights Advocacy \(ERA\)](#)

[Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service](#)

[inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence](#)

[Men's Referral Service](#)

[No To Violence](#)

[QLife Australia](#)

[Seniors Rights Victoria \(SRV\)](#)

[The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence](#)

[Victoria Legal Aid \(VLA\)](#)

[Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency](#)

[Women with Disabilities Victoria \(WDV\)](#)

[Women's Housing Ltd](#)

[Women's Information Referral Exchange \(WIRE\)](#)

[Women's Legal Service](#)

[Women's refuges](#)

Worth Reading: Your health information is neither safe nor secure

“E-health files in the United States are being used for identity fraud and by paedophiles, according to a new report that highlights the vulnerabilities of online health systems.

That finding is contained in the Washington-based Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology's Your Life, Repackaged and Resold report into hacking.

The institute's James Scott told Future Tense the level of hacking was "massive", and that many health organisations have simply failed to keep pace with network security needs.”

Read the entire article by Antony Funnell on the ABC at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-12/your-health-information-is-neither-safe-nor-secure/8005338>

Worth Reading: Three years of stagnant wage growth. Don't be surprised if people look for someone to blame

“This week came the news that once again a record low has been set for wages growth. The [wages price index](#) in the past year rose by just 1.9% – a full percentage point below the level of growth that occurred when Australia was in the midst of the global financial crisis. It means that real wages have not grown at all for more than three years.

If you like records being broken, now is the most exciting time to look at economic data. The annual growth of wages in September of 1.9% was a new record low, breaking the old mark of 2.1% set only three months ago in June. It was the 16th consecutive fall in the growth of annual wages.”

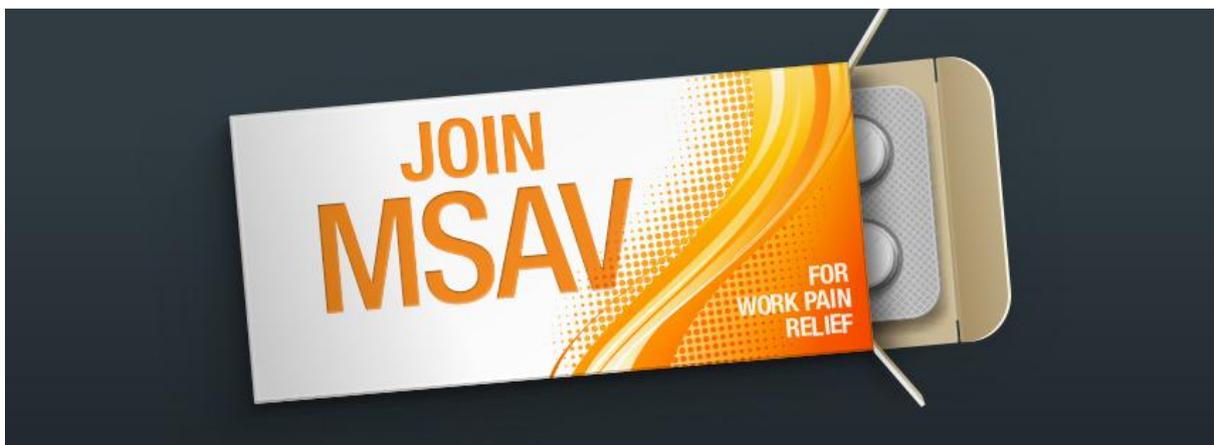
Read the entire article by Greg Jericho in The Guardian at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/grogonomics/2016/nov/17/three-years-of-stagnant-wage-growth-dont-be-surprised-if-people-look-for-someone-to-blame>

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.

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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