



## Stat Report 2017/24

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### Marriage Equality: The Union says Yes

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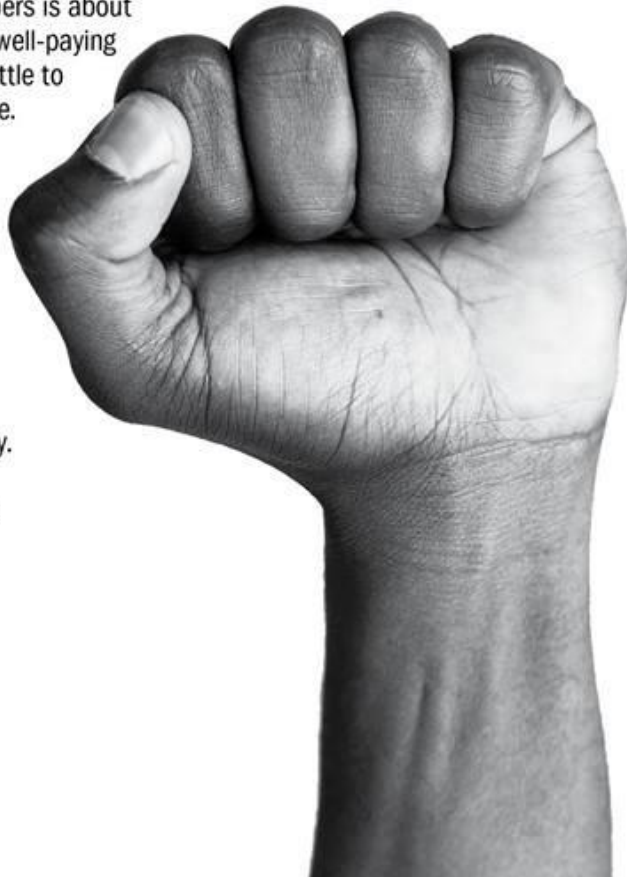
# Equality is union business.



99% of the work we do as union members is about fighting for our right to a decent, safe, well-paying work. But that's one fight in a larger battle to build a just and fair society for everyone.

We can't build a just and fair society for everyone while our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) workmates are treated differently to other workers. They have the same right to happiness as every other union member and the same right to have their loving, committed relationships treated equally.

**We stand up and fight for all workers,  
because equality is union business.**



Authorised by Labor unions, Secretary, Victorian Trades and Councils, 54 Victoria Street, Carlton South VIC 3053. Image by: Kristian/Corbis, © Stocked by Jeroen Wubben/VIC 3029

**WE ARE UNION**

Make sure you're enrolled to vote by 5pm on 24 August. Check your enrolment at:  
<https://check.aec.gov.au/>

## Long service leave provisions

Some members may have noticed that the Premier, Daniel Andrews, has highlighted changing the rules around long-service leave. In Victoria you lose your long service leave if you spend

more than a year at home looking after your newborn as it is considered a break in service.

Fortunately under our agreement taking maternity leave does not result in your service being broken. Our agreement means you are not penalised by having your long service leave clock restarted because you've extended your parental leave, or chosen to extend your time at home with your newborn.

We will monitor the situation and the changes being proposed by the Victorian Government to make sure they don't inadvertently impact our agreement and the conditions we've won through it.

## Dorevitch Health Workers Need Your Support

On Monday, 7 August, over 500 Dorevitch members went on strike for 24 hours. Dorevitch management responded by locking out 89 members. These members are not allowed to work and are not getting paid. This number is growing by the day.

In solidarity with the locked out members, all HWU members walked out on their jobs and remain on strike. Many of the striking and locked out members are single mothers, who have been supporting their families on \$21 an hour.

Dorevitch workers' agreement on wages has been expired for 10 years. Over a 12 month period, Dorevitch Pathology has come up with a pathetic 0% wage offer.

Dorevitch's parent company Primary Health has made \$1.2 billion in profits from pathology since the last agreement expired. Dorevitch management are attempting to starve them out.

**Stand with locked out and striking members by making a donation to the Dorevitch strike fund today. Make your donation at: <https://www.mycause.com.au/page/157523/health-workers-union-dorevitch-strike-fund>**

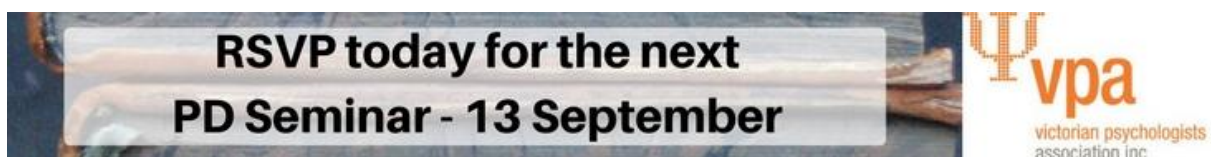
## Andrews Government failing to deliver the new agreement

It's already been 6 months for the Andrews Labor Government to sign off a new enterprise agreement. But now we're facing further delay because some bureaucrats and Ministers can't organise a meeting to get together to approve the agreement, which would take all of 5 minutes given that all of the work has already been done.

We have advised the Government that if haven't received confirmation of agreement, in other words a sign off, we will be making an immediate application to the Fair Work Commission to take industrial action.

If you want to know why it's taking so long to sign off on our new agreement we strongly urge you to contact Jill Hennessy, the Health Minister, Tim Pallas, the Treasurer and Daniel Andrews, the Premier to find out:

Jill Hennessy, Health Minister	(03) 9395 0221	<a href="mailto:minister.health@health.vic.gov.au">minister.health@health.vic.gov.au</a>
Tim Pallas, Treasurer	(03) 9741 1133	<a href="mailto:tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au">tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au</a>
Daniel Andrews, Premier	(03) 9548 5644	<a href="mailto:daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au">daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au</a>



## Bendigo Health pathology review complete, but findings

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## remain secret

The state government has completed its review of pathology services at Bendigo Health, but has refused to release its findings, drawing criticism from the Coalition and the pathologists union.

Healthcare safety agency Safer Care Victoria recommended “more stringent governance and monitoring arrangements” including the appointment of an infectious disease physician, the establishment of a pathology sub-committee of clinical directors and increased reporting requirements.

Health Minister Jill Hennessy ordered the review in May after [senior clinicians at the hospital spoke out about what they saw as a “huge risk” to patients](#) following a move by pathology laboratory operator Australian Clinical Labs to relocate some of its on-site microbiology services to Melbourne.

A Health Department spokesman said it had delivered its recommendations to the hospital on Monday, but neither the department nor Ms Hennessy would be drawn on the details of the investigation’s findings.

Medical Scientists Association of Victoria executive officer Paul Elliott said the union had requested a copy of the report and held concerns that SCV did not enter the laboratory at Bendigo Health or speak to any pathology staff during the investigation.

“They were at no stage in the lab and nor did they at any stage speak to scientists and our scientists have confirmed that on numerous occasions,” he said.

Mr Elliott said the lack of consultation with pathologists left “a gaping hole in the investigation”.

“To use the medical and hospital context, if you were investigating an operation that went wrong or that you had some concerns about, it’s a bit like doing that but without actually talking to any surgeons or going anywhere near the operating theatre,” he said.

“It just beggars belief that you can do a full and thorough investigation without having done that.”

Meanwhile, opposition health spokeswoman Mary Wooldridge called on Ms Hennessy to release the SCV report “immediately”, describing the matter as one of “great concern”.

“It is only appropriate that this report now be released so that everyone can understand the implications of the movement off site and down to Melbourne of these microbiology services,” she said.

“This is an important issue. It has been raised in the context of patient safety, being able to get these results in quick time and also the fact that being able to do them on site in relation to a single cohort of patients has led to identification of clusters of concern that will not have the same capacity to be investigated and identified if the results are down in Melbourne along with those of the whole rest of the state.”

Ms Wooldridge’s comments come after Ms Hennessy also [refused to disclose details of findings stemming from an internal hospital investigation which led to the sacking of the hospital’s chief executive officer](#), John Mulder, on Thursday.

A spokeswoman for Bendigo Health said the hospital was acting on all the recommendations and had already appointed Dr Andrew Mahony as its new infectious diseases physician, while maintaining patient safety was its “number one priority”.

“This is a pioneering role for both Bendigo Health and the region, Dr Mahony will provide expert advice, governance and support to his colleagues,” she said.

“Chief medical officer Dr Humsha Naidoo is confident that as long as enhanced governance and monitoring arrangements are in place and are strictly adhered to and senior medical staff are involved and consulted, the new model will not reduce safety for our patients.”

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An Australian Clinical Labs spokeswoman said the company had not been provided with a copy of the report or informed of its recommendations, but said it already had an “extremely detailed” reporting process as part of its contract.

“Clinical Labs can report on all test types in detail and does as part of its reporting and liaison process,” she said.

ACL has previously refuted any suggestion it blocked SVC investigators from entering its lab or speaking with staff.

Ms Hennessy has been contacted for comment.

See the article on the Bendigo Advertiser site at:

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/4849728/hospital-pathology-review-complete-but-findings-remain-secret/?cs=3329>

## Legionella detected at RCH

The Union has been advised that during routine testing of hospital water outlets, low levels of Legionella were detected in two locations in the hospital: one shower in the hydrotherapy pool area and the bereavement room on Level 5. All other test results were negative.

In line with Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, Spotless immediately undertook heat disinfection of these two locations as well as proactively flushing all hot water systems across the hospital. Cooling towers, air conditioning and the hospital pool are unaffected.

As an additional precaution, RCH will disinfect and treat all showers in the hydrotherapy area and retest. As test results can take upwards of 10 days, RCH have decided to close the pool area until all tests have been completed and results are negative.

RCH are currently notifying all patients and families who used the hydrotherapy pool area in the last 10 days and have provided advice to them about Legionella and the symptoms to look out for.

As Legionella is transmitted in aerosols, staff who may have used the showers in the pool area – or who assisted patients in showering – since 2 August are being asked to be mindful of symptoms. Legionella cannot be transmitted from person to person.

If you have not used the showers in the pool area you are not affected by this notice.

Any staff member who has accessed the pool showers and develops symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath or fever during the next two weeks should mention the possibility of Legionella infection to their doctor.

If you require any further guidance, please contact the RCH Infection Prevention and Control Team at [infection.control@rch.org.au](mailto:infection.control@rch.org.au)

## VPA: Professional Development Seminar

**VPA PD Wednesday 13 September 2017 from 2pm to 4.30pm at Royal Australasian College of Surgeons - Hughes Room - 250-290 Spring St, East Melbourne.**

The next VPA Inc. Professional Development Seminar will be held on 13 September. The theme for the Seminar will be Anger Management with the main speaker being Dr Tony McHugh.

More details will be announced as soon as possible but in the meantime make sure you [save your spot and RSVP today](#) for the next VPA Professional Development Seminar. The seminar will commence following the VPA Inc's Annual General Meeting.

Registration and light refreshments will start from 12.30pm.

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RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/ry7aE1ewW9T80rnr2>

## Annual General Meetings

It's that time of year again for the Unions' Annual General Meetings. But in order to be able to attend you'll need to be a financial member. If you're not sure whether or not you're a financial member contact us on 9623 9623.

Here are the dates and venues for the upcoming Annual General Meetings.

### **HSU#4**

Wednesday 27th September 2017  
12:00pm Refreshments for 12:30 start  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Function Centre  
Seminar Room 2

### **MSAV**

Wednesday 27th September 2017  
12:00pm Refreshments for 1:00pm start  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Function Centre  
Seminar Room 2

### **VPA**

Wednesday 13th September 2017  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Hughes Room  
250-290 Spring St, East Melbourne.  
12:30pm Refreshments for 1:00pm start to be followed by Professional Development Seminar at 2:00pm-4:30pm.

### **AHP**

The date and venue for the Annual General Meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

## SHPA Medicines Management Conference 2017

The Society for Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA) is holding its Medicines Management Conference in November at the International Convention Centre in Sydney.

It is a landmark event on the pharmacy calendar and will feature three leading national and international speakers, including:

- Emeritus Professor Kim Oates from The University of Sydney and Director of Undergraduate Quality and Safety Education at the Clinical Excellence Commission will focus on patient safety.
- Professor Zubin Austin, Academic Director, Centre for Practice Excellence at the University of Toronto will explore the essentials of cultural competency in pharmacy practice.
- Futurist Michael McQueen will help delegates guide their thinking into the near and not-so-near future with his presentation "Decoding the next generation".

The Conference will be held over 16-19 November. More details and registration can be found at: <http://mm2017shpa.com/>

## 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.](#)

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## **Common beaches of employment entitlements and negotiation of enterprise agreements**

The 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.

## Stop the Victorian Government from selling our Land Titles Office

The Victorian Government has announced its intention to privatise Victoria's Land Titles Office. For 155 years, the Land Titles Office has tirelessly scrutinised every survey, mortgage and transaction on Victoria's four million-odd properties, perfecting this priceless public asset. This decision must be reversed.

The CPSU have a petition on Megaphone, calling on Daniel Andrews to reverse this decision.

Please sign and share the petition with your friends and family and stop the privatisation of public services.

<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/stop-the-victorian-government-from-selling-our-land-titles-office>

## Stopping Gendered Violence at Work

Far too often women are attacked, harassed and threatened in their workplaces. And it needs to stop. That's why the Union is fighting back against gendered violence in the workplace – it's a very serious occupational health and safety issue.

Gendered violence is like a disease in our workplaces. Working women's experience of violence at work indicates that the problem of gendered violence is endemic in our workplaces.

Sign up to support the campaign at: <http://www.unionwomen.org.au/stopgv>

## 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](http://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](#)

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[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: Rottnest Island: Black prison to white playground

"Glen Stasiuk, a lecturer and Indigenous researcher at Murdoch University, was just a teenager when he first went camping with his mates on Rottnest Island — Wadjemup — in the 1980s.

He went skin diving, became inexplicably sick and had to be airlifted back to the mainland. He went back a year later and again became very sick. His mum told him it was probably about time he went and spoke to his Noongar nana.

"It's worra," she said. "It's worra, it's menditj. It's a sick place."

Stasiuk had camped at Tentland. For years and years, Tentland was the camping area on Rottnest; the place where families and teenagers pitched their tents, had a few drinks, and threw some sausages on the barbeque.

What campers didn't know was that they were sleeping on the unmarked graves of at least 373 Aboriginal men. It's the largest deaths in custody site in Australia and the largest known burial ground of Aboriginal people."

Read the entire article by Kirsti Melville on the ABC at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-25/rotnest-island-black-prison-to-white-playground/7962940>

## Worth Reading: You can science too, with Atlas of Living Australia

"If you think science only happens in the lab, you'd be wrong. And if you think if it can only be done by qualified professional scientists well, you'd be wrong there too.

You too can help contribute to science, all day, every day. And what better time to start than during National Science Week?

Contributions to scientific investigations from the general public are becoming more and more important. Especially when it comes to data collection from the natural world. There are still thousands of species of flora and fauna that have not been identified and even those we do know about need more data so we can learn more about them."

Read the entire article by Nikki Galovic in CSIRO Blog at: <https://blog.csiro.au/can-science-atlas-living-australia/>

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## Worth Reading: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Ending The Culture Of Waste

"Humans are creatures of habit, and waking up and enjoying a cuppa before the day's activities is an essential part of daily life for most Australians.

But what happens once the kettle stops working, do you step back in time and boil water on the stove, or go straight out and buy a new one?

Australian households are estimated to have on average 22 electrical appliances. When these fall into disrepair, most will end up in a cupboard for a few months or even years before being chucked in the bin. What happens next is probably not what most of us ponder over our morning coffee.

Electrical refuse or e-waste is officially classified as [hazardous](#) – these items are [filled with chemicals](#) that leach into the soil and air when dumped in landfill and cause problems for human health and the environment."

Read the entire article by Kathryn Lewis in New Matilda at:

<https://newmatilda.com/2017/08/09/reduce-reuse-recycle-ending-the-culture-of-waste/>

## Worth Reading: The country–city divide: more evidence of how inequality is growing

"At long last, we are talking about the growing inequality that has marked Australia in the post-reform era. At last, we have a political party that is prepared to tackle at least part of the problem: the tax loopholes that allow so much income to avoid redistribution through the welfare safety net. And even the Coalition is taking some steps down that path.

But in some people's minds, it seems, the debate about inequality has got tangled up with the rise of minor parties. The economic slump in the Midwest rustbelt clearly [played](#) a large part in Donald Trump's victory in last year's US election, just as factory closures, high unemployment and stalling incomes have fuelled the growth of the National Front in France (especially the north), the growth of Podemos in Spain and, to a lesser extent, success of the Brexit campaign in Britain. Is the same thing now happening here?

No, argues David Marr, in his recent Quarterly Essay, [The White Queen: One Nation and the Politics of Race](#). Hanson's support, he claims, is based on her appeal to racists, with a dash of nostalgia. No, implies the Grattan Institute, in a new working paper this week, which [argues](#) that regional Australia, where One Nation's support is highest, has matched the city in income growth and unemployment rates over the last decade."

Read the entire article by Tim Colebatch in Inside Story at: <http://insidestory.org.au/the-country-city-divide-more-evidence-of-how-inequality-is-growing/>

## 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.

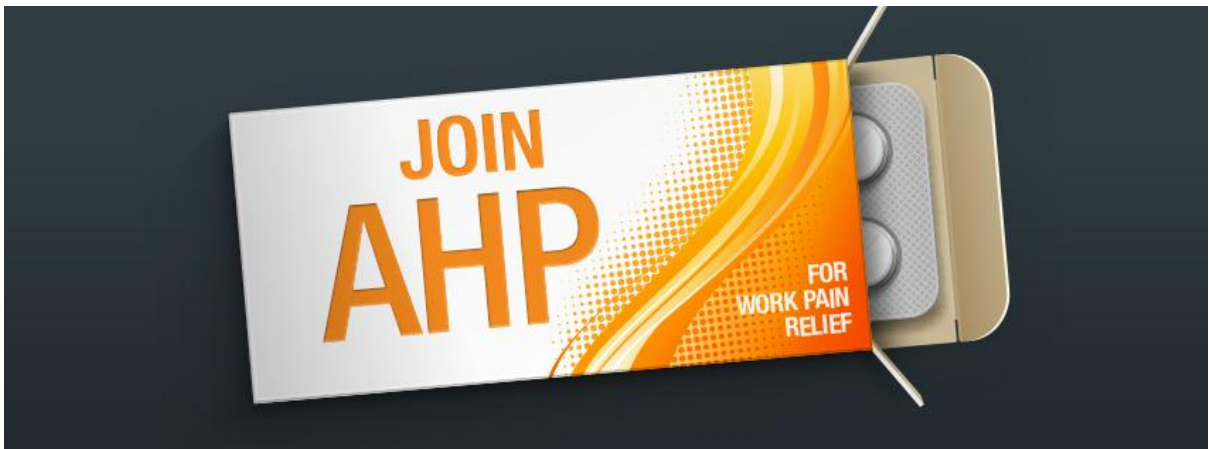
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[Share on Facebook](#)



[Share on Facebook](#)



[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](#)

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## 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.](#)



## 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.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#)

Authorised by Paul Elliott, Executive Officer, Level 1, 62 Lygon St, Carlton South. Medical Scientists Association (03) 9623 9623 Association of Hospital Pharmacists (03) 9623 9624 Victorian Psychologists Association Inc (03) 9623 9625 Fax (03) 9663 8109 Email [enquiry@msav.org.au](mailto:enquiry@msav.org.au) A.B.N. 30 345 343 541 (MSAV), 72 520 393 213 (AHP), 87 851 818 075 (VPA Inc).

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