



Stat Report 2018/10

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The Federal Budget and Healthcare

This year's Federal budget does very little to support the health system. There is some good news in that Medicare appears to be safe from further cuts and efforts to privatise it, at least for now.

Unfortunately while there is additional funding being put into our public health system there nothing has done to reverse the freeze on rebates for pathology testing and diagnostic imaging. These two essential areas of our healthcare system are becoming rapidly unaffordable as the out-of-pocket expenses become too large forcing many vulnerable Australians into making unenviable choices about whether to look after their health or pay the rent.

While funding is welcome to boost Australia's medical research, the value of developing world-class medical breakthroughs is lessened if we're not able to take advantage of these because the workforce isn't available. Fortunately this budget saw additional funding put into mental health however there remain concerns about the funding for mental health programs delivered through the community health sector.

The Turnbull Government has failed to address any of the systemic issues that allow large corporations to avoid paying tax and to offshore their profits. The budget fails to address the growing inequality in our society and leaves young people even more vulnerable with rising living costs and unaffordable housing. And the budget fails to address the growing real threat that climate change poses to our future health and well-being.

The proposed overhaul of the taxation system will further entrench inequality as those on lower incomes pay a higher proportion to taxes. Inexplicably, endemic corporate tax avoidance does not get a mention. The 'overhaul' will also see that more and more government services are cut as the proportion of revenue from income tax diminishes.

It's frustrating that the Federal Government, like the Victorian Government, continues to view our

health system as being solely made up of doctors and nurses when the reality is that without medical scientists and physicists, dietitians, psychologists, audiologists, pharmacists, clinical perfusionists, cleaners, cooks, and orderlies and many others, our health system wouldn't function and can't deliver. It's disappointing that the Turnbull Government continues to fail Australia when it comes to delivering world-class healthcare that is universally accessible to all Australians.

Unfortunately this is a budget that continues to look after the big end of town and does very little to close the gaps in health and education or the growing intergenerational inequality. It's a budget that ensures that big business will be able to continue to avoid paying tax and offshore their profits. It's a budget that reinforces why the rules are broken and why it's time to change the rules.

Paul Elliott
Secretary



Bargaining Update

Community Sector

Negotiations for a new enterprise agreement for members employed in the community health sector are continuing.

Unfortunately we are still waiting to see the detail of the wages offer however once the Union has received the offer we will organise a members meeting by teleconference to discuss it.

We have a meeting with the VHIA scheduled for 21 May, and expect that a formal offer will be put then.

Please let us know if you'd like to organise a meeting in your workplace at enquiry@msav.org.au

Dorevitch

Discussions in relation to the Dorevitch draft agreement has commenced but as has been flagged this discussion will take time as we go through the agreement line by line.

We have asked for an agreed operative date for any first wage increase and we are awaiting Dorevitch's response.

Australian Clinical Labs

The Union will be sit down with Australian Clinical Labs to commence negotiations for a new agreement. It is expected that discussions will take their time given the time taken already to commence negotiations for a new agreement.

As the negotiations progress the Union will keep members informed and organise member meetings to discussion relevant issues as they come up. In the meantime if you have any questions please contact Matt Hammond at 9623 9623 or via email at matth@msav.org.au

Union marches to Change the Rules

On Wednesday the Union joined with 120,000 others to march through Melbourne to Change the Rules. It was spectacular to be part of such a large gathering of people committed to changing the rules for more secure work, for better conditions, and for a better future for all working Australians.

Check out some of the pictures we got from the rally. If you were there and you're on Facebook

tag us in your pictures – we'd love to see them.





Host a workplace meeting on Change the Rules

To change the rules it's vital we make sure that our colleagues are with us. One of the best ways to do that is to hold workplace meetings to discuss the Change the Rules campaign and why it's so important.

The meetings are easy to run and we're here to help you run them. Plus workplace meetings help us build momentum for the campaign.

Our campaign relies on you getting involved.

We've prepared materials and information to make it super easy for you to hold a workplace meeting. Let us know if you're ready to hold a workplace meeting on the Change the Rules campaign – contact us at enquiry@msav.org.au

120,000 people march in Melbourne to Change the Rules



Keep it going and host a workplace
meeting to build our campaign



VPA Professional Development Seminar

SAVE THE DATE – 11 JULY 2018

The Professional Development for VPA Inc. members will be held on 11 July at ANMF Conference Centre in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Dr Pat Brown has been confirmed as the speaker for the Seminar. Dr Brown will speak about the interesting and amazing history of the Victorian Children's Court Clinic as its former Director. Dr Brown is both a clinical and forensic psychologist.

Stay tuned for more details but in the meantime make sure you save the date – 11 July.

No Pay? No Way! 2018 Survey

The Union wants to be able to better understand the nature and extent of unpaid work, and more importantly, how unpaid work has changed and the impact it has on members over time. That's why the Union is continuing with our "No Pay? No Way!" survey we started in 2014.

[Please take a few minutes to do our survey and help us continue to highlight the issues around unpaid work and its impact.](#)



AHP Committee Vacancy

Unfortunately due to a resignation a casual vacancy now exists on the AHP Committee and as such expressions of interest are now being called to fill this casual vacancy. To be eligible to be considered you must be a financial member of the AHP.

Expressions of interest must be received by Paul Elliott in writing no later than 5pm on 25 May.

Completed expressions of interest can be sent to enquiry@msav.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

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.

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.

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>

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: Five hearty facts about your ticker

"Some days it's awe-inspiring to think about how we came to exist, about how all the matter in the universe started with one big bang and over billions of years formed our stars, planets, atmospheres, jellyfish... and ourselves.

Turning that gaze inwards, we find our hearts: amazing, finely tuned pumps that work tirelessly to keep us alive.

Here are a few choice facts about your amazing ticker."

Read the entire article on the CSIRO Blog at: <https://blog.csiro.au/five-hearty-facts-about-your-ticker/>

Worth Reading: The flat tax is really about cutting services not taxes

"In 2014 Joe Hockey made the fatal mistake of outlining his dream of \$80bn worth of cuts to education and health. Scott Morrison has not been so foolish but his desire to flatten the income tax rate is just as insidious. The government's plan to cut income tax in a manner that is greatly targeted towards the wealthiest comes with a \$140bn bill – one that cannot be paid with hopes

and prayers about strong economic growth. Morrison's desire for a flat tax is not about cutting taxes, it is also about inevitably cutting government services in the same way Hockey desired.

We probably should have seen it coming. While the treasurer might have talked of the priority of tax cuts for "low to middle income earners", we should always know the deepest desire of conservative governments is to help the wealthy.

The budget tax plan outlined over the next four years is nothing too astounding. The move to not increase the Medicare levy by 0.5% point is one of those tax cuts that we won't actually notice because no one has had to pay it yet."

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

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/grogonomics/2018/may/10/the-flat-tax-is-really-about-cutting-services-not-taxes>

Worth Reading: Fitness apps found to make almost no difference to users' health

"An app developed by the Swedish government to curb drinking among university students actually led to them drink more, while a globally popular fitness app made almost no difference to the weight of those who used it, a review of the effectiveness of health apps has found.

Researchers from Bond University in Queensland decided to examine which health and wellness apps, of the quarter of a million available, had been proven to actually work, in the hope that they could provide doctors with a list of evidence-based apps to suggest to patients."

Read the entire article by Melissa Davey in The Guardian at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/may/11/fitness-apps-found-to-make-almost-no-difference-to-users-health>

Worth Reading: Mental health crises seeing more kids forced to ED for help; experts call for greater investment

"A dramatic increase in the number of children going to the emergency department in mental health crises is evidence "the system is failing", according to a group of leading adolescent and mental health experts.

In Victoria, there was a 46 per cent increase in the number of children presenting to the ED for self-harm, stress and anxiety, mood, behavioural and emotional disorders between 2008 and 2015, [according to a recent study](#).

Similarly, in New South Wales, ED presentations among 10-19 year-olds for suicidal thoughts, self-harm and intentional poisoning increased by 27 per cent between 2010 and 2014, [another paper has shown](#)."

Read the entire article by Olivia Willis on the ABC at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2018-05-07/youth-mental-health-emergency-departments/9728918>

Join the Union

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

To protect our professions and stand up for our rights at work we must strengthen our collective voice by increasing our membership. You can help by sharing one of the images below on Facebook.



WE DIAGNOSE AN **INCREASE**
IN PAY OF 3.25% PER YEAR
OVER 4 YEARS.

[Share on Facebook](#)



HERE'S SOMETHING TO ANALYSE:
WE GOT PSYCHOLOGISTS A PAY
INCREASE OF 3.25% P.A.

[Share on Facebook](#)



WE WON PHARMACISTS AN EASY
TO SWALLOW **3.25% PER YEAR**
PAY INCREASE.

[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-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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