



Stat Report 2019/13

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Policy announcements galore

As soon as the Prime Minister was seen heading to Yarralumla to visit the Governor General, we knew the election was about to be called. From that moment there has been a flurry of activity and policy announcements. So far the ALP has new policies around health and taxation while the Morrison LNP spent much of the first days of the election campaign warning people about ALP policies rather than putting out their own policies.

We're yet to hear a great amount of detail about the policies released so far but it seems that the ALP at least has been listening to our calls for greater support for the pathology sector with a commitment of \$200 million to ease the costs of tests associated with cancer and cancer treatment. Whilst it is great this is acknowledged, especially given all cancer diagnoses come from pathology tests, it is not nearly enough and fails to address the real issues – chronic understaffing of medical scientists, huge and unsustainable workloads and stress, and privatised public services that undervalue the work of scientists and endanger the wider community with worsening turn-around times and shift testing out of hospital laboratories. And as usual there has been little attention paid to the important role that pharmacies and pharmacists play in our public hospitals.

The Morrison Liberal Government has continued its attacks on workers and appears completely tone-deaf to the fact that hundreds of thousands of Australians want our workplace rules

changed. The Morrison Liberal Government continues to tout tax cuts which are going disproportionately to the big end of town – who is going to bank on tax cuts that at some time in the distant future might be worth \$4,000?

This is a government which introduced schemes to punish unemployed young people with forced 'internships' worth \$4 an hour – a scheme that has been exploited by large multinationals to minimise wages and increase profits. There is growing inequality at work and an increase in the casualisation and insecurity of work for millions of Australians; a fact that the Morrison Liberal Government rejects with their warped sense of what constitutes a 'fair go'.

Voting against legislation to restore weekend penalty rates demonstrated the Morrison Liberal Government can't be trusted to deliver the fair go that he likes to talk about.

The Morrison Liberal Government continues to refuse to accept that climate change is real or having a growing negative impact on our health and well-being. You only need to look at how hysterical their response has been to suggestions that Australia has to transition away from digging up, exporting and burning fossil fuels and use renewables; or that driving electric vehicles will help curb emissions from vehicles and our transportation systems.

Who can forget the image of Scott Morrison standing in Australian Parliament waving a lump of coal at us and telling us not to be scared? Why should we forget?

We don't need to look further than the Morrison Liberal Government's refusal to acknowledge the need to develop a national healthcare strategy to protect our health and well-being as the impacts of climate change become more severe and frequent.

That's why the Union is proud to say that we are co-signatories to the Open Letter from the Climate and Health Alliance. It calls on all parties at this election to commit to establishing a national framework to develop strategies to protect our health and well-being as climate change has increasingly severe impacts. We encourage all members to [check out the Open Letter](#) and then send it to your local candidate to find out where they stand on protecting our health and well-being as our climate changes.

Over the course of the election campaign we'll continue to make comment on the policies being announced, especially those that have the greatest impact on members, your work and your rights at work.

Paul Elliott
Secretary

Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health

The Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health is now ready to take submissions. The Royal Commission was tasked with providing a comprehensive set of recommendations on how to best support Victorians with mental illness, including Victorians at risk of suicide. It will also play a major role in raising public awareness about mental health as an issue.

The Victorian Government has already committed to implementing every recommendation from the Royal Commission's report. But right now is our opportunity to contribute to the work of the Royal Commission by making submissions and/or participating in community consultation sessions.

To find out when community consultations are being held go to: <https://rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/whats-happening-now>

And to make a submission to the Royal Commission visit: <https://rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/submissions>

Submissions to the Royal Commission will close on 5 July.

Easter and Public Holiday Pay

Easter is nearly upon us and so is Anzac Day, which means there will be public holiday pay. With

the new public sector agreement in place, the graphic below outlines how your public holiday pay will be determined. It's important to note that Easter Sunday **and** Easter Monday have been gazetted as public holidays this year. The graphic below covers the majority of circumstances but it won't cover everything, especially if you work across more than one public health service.



If you're unsure about how your public holiday pay works, or if you work in the private or community health sectors call the Union on 9623 9623 or via enquiry@msav.org.au

Union closure over Easter

Starting on 19 April the Union will be closing its doors for the Easter break and reopening on 29 April. But you won't be left in the lurch. If you need urgent assistance make sure you contact us on 9623 9623!

We hope you have a great break and we want to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone working over this period - without you our healthcare would stop!

2019 Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium

The 2019 Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium will be held from Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th October at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia.

Australians living and working in rural and remote areas are only able to access mental health services at a fifth of the rate of those in urban areas. This inequality poses serious risks for a large population of Australians, resulting in increased suffering of those seeking help, support and treatment for mental health issues.

Connect with professionals working to advance the services and support mental health receives in rural and remote areas, from renowned keynote speakers and industry workers through to government, academics, researchers and individual service providers.

Registrations are now open at: <https://anzmh.asn.au/rrmh/registration/>



Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA Raffle

Need a holiday? It's Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA raffle time!

The annual raffle raised more than \$60,000 last year. Your support is vital in keeping Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA independent, effective and strong, and helps build unions and social movements.

As well as knowing your money goes to great things, you'll be in the draw for some terrific prizes.

FIRST PRIZE: Take the holiday of your dreams with an \$8,000 travel voucher.

- Can be used on domestic or international travel through any Australian accredited travel agent.
- Can be used to take one big holiday or a number of smaller trips.

SECOND PRIZE: Ride off into the commuter sunset on a fabulous Gazelle bicycle (valued at \$2199). Dutch-made, the Ultimate C1 is a premium lightweight city bike designed to be the lightest hub drive city bike in its class.

THIRD PRIZE: Escape into a world of books with a \$500 book voucher from Gleebooks, Sydney's leading independent bookseller for more than 40 years – available online or in-store.

How to buy your tickets:

[Buy online](#)

[Download and complete this form](#); or

FREECALL 1800 888 674 or email office@apheda.org.au

Spread the word and help us blitz the raffle this year - **raffle closes Friday 17 May**

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: The meaning of Morrison's mantra about getting a fair go is clear. It's conditional

"It's a talking point, and the danger with talking points is journalists can stop listening. To avoid a sudden death by sound bite, and lulled by the ceaseless cacophony, we can sometimes fail to interrogate what is sitting right in front of us.

Scott Morrison has shared a few versions of the same organising idea since taking the prime ministership last year, but the clearest articulation of his mantra came during the opening press conference of the 2019 election.

Morrison was asked about the fair go. A journalist asked the prime minister how he intended to counter Labor's campaign messaging about the importance of fairness. It's worth recording his answer in full."

Read the entire article by Katharine Murphy in The Guardian at:
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/17/the-meaning-of-morrison-s-mantra-about-getting-a-fair-go-is-clear-its-conditional>

Worth Reading: Here's why elections are bad times for hospital planning

"The government and the opposition have promised millions of dollars for capital works as part of their health campaigns in this election. The government has used the medical research future fund with capital for medical research and established a \$1.25 bn community health and hospitals fund late last year, with spending from this being announced last week.

The opposition has its \$2.8bn hospital fund, with a commitment to a capital project at Concord Hospital in Sydney announced this week. Announcements of this largess will play well locally, but the cargo cult approach – where a federal politician flies in and drops a building announcement to a specially gathered group of local worthies – is no way to ensure that the right health projects are built in the right places.

There are two main problems with announcements during federal election campaigns."

Read the entire article by Stephen Duckett in The Guardian at:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/16/heres-why-elections-are-bad-times-for-hospital-planning>

Worth Reading: How fake news gets into our minds, and what you can do to resist it

"Although the term itself is not new, fake news presents a growing threat for [societies across the](#)

[world](#).

Only a [small amount of fake news is needed](#) to disrupt a conversation, and at extremes it can have an impact on democratic processes, including elections.

But what can we do to avoid fake news, at a time when we could be waiting a while for [mainstream media](#) and [social networks](#) to step up and [address the problem](#)?

From a psychology perspective, an important step in tackling fake news is to understand why it gets into our mind. We can do this by [examining how memory works](#) and [how memories become distorted](#).

Using this viewpoint generates some tips you can use to work out whether you're reading or sharing fake news – which might be handy in the coming election period."

Read the entire article by Julian Matthews in The Conversation at:

<https://theconversation.com/how-fake-news-gets-into-our-minds-and-what-you-can-do-to-resist-it-114921>

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.



[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](#)

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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