



Stat Report 2022/09

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Federal Budget thin on delivering for all Australians

The Morrison government has handed down its budget.

It's a disappointing budget that does little to address the major issues facing Australia over the long-term.

Instead, as many commentators have already said, it is a budget with the sole purpose of buying votes.

There is little in the budget that, as promised by the Prime Minister and Treasurer, actually eases the cost-of-living pressures. One-off payments are not the answer to addressing the escalating cost-of-living pressures Australians are experiencing; they are clearly election sweeteners.

Instead of dealing with the structural issues in our economy which are keeping wages down, the government has opted for one-off payments.

Despite the claims of the Treasurer, and modelling by treasury, it is highly unlikely that people will see wage increases meeting rising costs of living. These predictions have been made in the past with those predictions failing to materialise.

There was additional funding put towards addressing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in terms of vaccinations and mRNA vaccine manufacturing capacity with additional funding for personal protective equipment supplies and restocking the national medical stockpile being considered a priority.

It isn't clear what level of funding is being provided to address the pandemic with many of the figures being "not for publication".

The budget also included additional funding for mental health, which is one of the few highlights of the federal budget. However, much of that funding has been earmarked for services like Lifeline and Headspace.

Funding was also delivered to increase paid parental leave; however, the new scheme won't start until March next year and there are concerns that the scheme does little to encourage men to take on responsibilities for caring for children. On the other hand, the budget does provide funding to address a range of women's health issues, however little has been done to advance measures to deal with violence against women with not nearly enough funding being delivered.

It was also clear from the Treasurer's budget speech that the Morrison government is not addressing major issues around climate change or the environment. Instead of prioritising action on climate change, the Morrison government believes it can protect the Great Barrier Reef with funding for more resilience measures.

Addressing the crisis in aged-care is absolutely important and the Opposition's commitments are laudable especially given the reports of poor standards in aged care facilities and the treatment of older Australians; and we cannot forget the awful outcomes from the government's failure to protect older Australians from COVID-19.

It's also worth pointing out that the Opposition leader talked about addressing the rising levels of insecure work across all sectors and industries. Unlike the Treasurer, the Opposition leader identified the need to ensure work is secure to deal with stagnant wages and the rising cost of living.

It's a stark difference to the government's approach of providing one-off payments.

However, without plans to address climate change and the structural changes needed in our economy to do so, the Opposition missed an opportunity to address the single biggest challenge facing our collective future.

Now that the federal budget has been handed down, it is expected that the Prime Minister will announce the federal election in the next week.

To make sure you can have your say in the upcoming election, you must be enrolled to vote. Please don't wait for the election to be called as you may only have a few days to get enrolled or update your details.

Visit aec.gov.au/enrol to enroll to vote or use check.aec.gov.au if you need to check and/or update your voter enrollment details.

Finally, this weekend sees the end of daylight savings time; remember to set your clocks back at 3am Sunday morning.

If you are experiencing issues at work, make sure you contact us by calling on 9623 9623 or emailing us at enquiry@msav.org.au

In solidarity
Paul Elliott
Secretary



Positions not backfilled?



Let us know

Union Round Up

Public Sector Bargaining and Maternity Leave

Numerous members have contacted the Union over the last few weeks about their maternity leave entitlement as bargaining for a new Public Sector agreement continues.

The Union's advice is that members should apply for their current existing leave entitlement of 10 weeks and once the new agreement is in place, to apply for the additional 4 weeks. Health services will not be able to

refuse as the maternity leave entitlement is part of the Union's heads of agreement, which back-dates pay and leave entitlements to December 2021.

If you have any questions, contact the Union at enquiry@msav.org.au

Viewing Health Records

Viewing health records of others or themselves without a therapeutic work-related reason to do so can lead to disciplinary action, which may include being sacked from your job.

We understand that members may be put under pressure from friends and relatives to look up records. It can be difficult to say no, but should you cave in and look up those records you are putting your job at risk.

Monash IVF Scientists Bargaining Update

The Union needs your feedback on important matters in negotiations for a new agreement at Monash IVF.

Please take the survey to provide your feedback by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8BW75QW>

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at lisaa@msav.org.au

Contacting the Union

Members can ring the Union to seek support, advice and assistance with workplace issues.

MSAV: (03) 9623 9623

VPA: (03) 9623 9625

AHP: (03) 9623 9624

As always members can raise workplace issues by emailing the Union at enquiry@msav.org.au

Membership Issues – Experiencing hardship?

Non-Members

For non-Union members who work in workplaces across our coverage; **we will give advice immediately over the phone if they join.**

In the spirit of supporting health workers through this unprecedented time we hope you might have a quiet word to colleagues who are not members and suggest that there has never been a more important time to join a Union. Let them know that it is as simple as going to our website and [clicking on the 'JOIN' link](#).

Members

If you are in the unfortunate position of being stood down or forced on to unpaid leave, [contact us to move your membership payments to a 'non-working' subscription rate of \\$8.26 per month](#).

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. [You can join quickly and easily here.](#)

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.

Right now, Aware Super, Australia's biggest health industry super fund, is investing our money in fossil fuels - oil and gas. While they have plans to divest from fossil fuels, it's vital that we maintain the pressure to make sure they divest faster to ensure a reduction in financial issues posed by stranded assets like fossil fuelled power stations.

Join us in asking Aware Super to divest from fossil fuels at <https://www.healthyfutures.net.au/awaresuper>

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: There is, in fact, a 'wrong' way to use Google. Here are 5 tips to set you on the right path

"I was recently reading comments on a post related to COVID-19, and saw a reply I would classify as misinformation, bordering on conspiracy. I couldn't help but ask the commenter for evidence.

Their response came with some web links and "do your own research". I then asked about their research methodology, which turned out to be searching for specific terms on Google.

As an academic, I was intrigued. Academic research aims to establish the truth of a phenomenon based on evidence, analysis and peer review.

On the other hand, a search on Google provides links with content written by known or unknown authors, who may or may not have knowledge in that area, based on a ranking system that either follows the preferences of the user, or the collective popularity of certain sites."

Read the entire article by Muneera Bano in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/there-is-in-fact-a-wrong-way-to-use-google-here-are-5-tips-to-set-you-on-the-right-path-179099>

Worth Reading: Morrison's gone, cynical Frydenberg trying to save the furniture

"Scott Morrison is gone. Anthony Albanese will win the election. Josh Frydenberg is fighting to save some of the furniture.

There, it's been said.

The commentariat generally is too scarred from getting the 2019 election wrong to call it, carefully hedging their collective bets.

Something similar happened in 1996 after Paul Keating's surprise 1993 "true believers" victory, but the polls and the national mood have had enough of the Morrison government in 2022 as they had had enough of the Keating government in 1996.

The majority of the electorate perceives the Coalition as tired, cynical and short of talent after nine years in power – not fit for purpose."

Read the entire article by Michael Pascoe in The New Daily at: <https://thenewdaily.com.au/finance/2022/03/29/michael-pascoe-scott-morrison-josh-frydenberg/>

Worth Reading: First Peoples in Victoria have a right to the truth about the impact of colonisation

"Formal hearings of the Yoorrook Justice Commission began today in Melbourne. This is timely because March 24 is the International Day for the Right to the Truth.

Yoorrook is a royal commission to establish an official public record of the systemic injustices of colonisation based on the experiences of the First Peoples of Victoria. This is reflected in its name: "Yoorrook" is a word in the Wemba Wemba/Wamba Wamba language for "truth".

It is the first such body in Australia to have this function and the first in the world to be Indigenous-led. Four of Yoorrook's five commissioners are Indigenous, three of them Victorian Traditional Owners.

The scope of this Indigenous-led pursuit of truth-telling reflects the role of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria in calling for the establishment of Yoorrook in 2020. In addition, Yoorrook is independently connected with the Victorian treaty-making process."

Read the entire article by Kevin Bell, Eleanor Bourke, Maggie Walter, Sue-Anne Hunter, Wayne Atkinson in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/first-peoples-in-victoria-have-a-right-to-the-truth-about-the-impact-of-colonisation-178398>

Join the Union

Are your workloads increasing? Are your stress levels increasing? [Join the Union today!](#)

To protect our professions, we must strengthen our collective voice by increasing our membership. You can help by sharing the image below on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit or your favourite social media platform.



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](#)

Australian Unions Member Benefits app

As a Union member you get access to exclusive Member Benefits. The 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 – that means you! If you have not got a login and would like join in [register for Member Benefits now.](#)



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