



Stat Report 2022/12

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Federal Election 2022

Tomorrow (Saturday) is Election Day. If you haven't already voted, make sure you vote tomorrow.

While many members may have already voted, I want to take this opportunity to present the Union's views on the federal election.

Another three years of a Morrison Government will mean less investment in healthcare at a federal level. It will mean a further erosion of our living standards and more attacks on our rights at work. It would also mean another 3 years of failure to meaningfully address the existential issue of climate change.

We have all seen firsthand what can happen when our federal government doesn't have a coordinated approach to dealing with major global events like the COVID-19 pandemic.

At each stage of the pandemic, one that is still ongoing, the Morrison Government has been behind.

Too often we were given lofty promises and all too often the results were extremely disappointing, with a lot of buck passing and laying blame for mistakes on others. Even now there is a reluctance by the Morrison Government to admit its massive shortcomings in dealing with the pandemic.

We also must not forget the blatant partisan politics that drove key decisions made by the Federal Government during a crisis when balanced and fair decision making from the Morrison Government was desperately needed.

The Federal Government failed to procure personal protective equipment leaving states to compete to secure vital equipment. They failed in securing vaccines leaving the nation to scramble to secure them.

They failed in ensuring rigorous and humane quarantine arrangements. They failed to protect people living and working in aged care facilities who are still at risk.

When it became apparent that Australia would need to have rapid antigen tests available to help “open up”, the Morrison Government decided to not make them freely available. Our Prime Minister, in defending such a terrible decision, declared that they didn’t want to undercut the profits of businesses selling them.

Instead of getting the support we needed, we saw ridiculous price-gouging and investigations by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and surges in infections.

This has been an unprecedented global health crisis; and there is no evidence that the Morrison Government has learned from their mistakes or have taken action to address the mistakes they’ve already made. They certainly have not provided any plan on how things will be different the next time we have a major health crisis, which could be just around the next corner

It’s not just the COVID-19 pandemic where the Morrison Government is missing in action; they refuse to address the realities of climate change and the growing impact the changing climate is having on our health and well-being.

Australians are already experiencing the very serious health impacts of climate change. We’re witnessing the impacts with record flooding and devastating bushfires as people are still waiting for housing and grants or getting assistance to deal with trauma from those experiences. Little has been said or done about the ongoing mental health issues from those catastrophic events.

The Union has been working with the Climate and Health Alliance around having a national approach to delivering health care as the climate changes and advocating for the health sector to do more to introduce measures like using renewable energy and reducing waste. While Labor may not have the best policies on climate change, they have acknowledged the urgent need to take action, whereas the Liberal National coalition has no plans to address climate change. The election campaign revealed the National Party remains hell-bent on protecting the profits of coal and oil companies.

The ALP and the Greens both want to take action to address the increasing frequency and impacts of climate change on our health and well-being. They each have recognised the necessity of having a whole-of-government, nation-wide plan to ensure our health system is able to cope.

Yet the Morrison government refuses to listen and refuses to accept the benefits of having a whole-of-government and holistic approach to our national health system to address climate change related health impacts.

Doing so would result in a health system that is better able to respond to and cope with future health crises.

We have witnessed over the terms of the Liberal National coalition being in government, a real decline in the essential public services which all Australians rely on. Just this week Morrison announced more cuts to the public service, which means more cuts to the services we rely on if they are re-elected, not to mention the number of public servants’ jobs sacrificed just to keep Morrison in his \$550,000 job.

However, it has been the last three years where we have really seen the impacts of stagnant wage growth, under investment in future industries, cuts to public education, cuts to universities and research, and cuts to public health and hospitals.

Under the Morrison government, our standard of living is rapidly declining.

They have also put our rights at work under serious threat.

They refuse to address the key issues with our industrial relations system. Instead of making appointments based on merit, the Fair Work Commission is stacked with people who ideologically support the Government and are opposed to unions, enterprise bargaining and workers’ rights.

The Morrison Government wants to maintain the limitations on what we can bargain for in each new agreement. They have actively sought to undermine your rights at work and continue to push for the further casualisation of the Australian workforce.

They refuse to consider national workplace manslaughter laws. They also refuse to take a national approach to the endemic problem of wage theft that is evident in all industries and across the country. Morrison and his government have consistently argued that minimum wages should not be increased, echoing the arguments from the business lobby, and belligerently denying the overwhelming evidence of wages failing to keep up with rapidly rising costs of living.

The Morrison Government won't do anything about the continuing casualisation of the workforce. Instead, they want to increase precarious work (contractors, casual work and the gig economy) and the inherent shift in costs of work from businesses to individuals. Remember, keeping wages low is a long and deliberate strategy of the Liberal National coalition.

Under Morrison, the Federal Government has refused to support family and domestic violence leave. Just this week, Morrison refused to commit to delivering paid family and domestic violence leave for all workers. This is despite the Fair Work Commission recommending the leave be incorporated into legislation which would make it available to all workers.

It shows that the Morrison Government does not want to ensure that people fleeing family and domestic violence have the stability at work and financial resources they need at a time when they're most vulnerable.

The Greens and Labor on the other hand want to tackle these issues. Both parties want to provide workers with paid family and domestic leave. Both parties want to ensure that there is greater equality in our workplaces, which is a complete contrast to the Morrison Government.

The final week of the federal election has also revealed that the Morrison Government, if re-elected, will not deliver on establishing an independent anti-corruption commission.

Instead, Morrison wants an anti-corruption commission that has limited powers to investigate and expose corruption. In breaking his promise to establish an anti-corruption commission, he blames others for not wanting to support his model.

After nearly a decade of the Liberal National coalition in government, and three years of Scott Morrison as Prime Minister, we cannot afford another three years of them in government.

That's why the Union is strongly recommending to members that they put the Liberals last.

If you haven't voted already or completed a postal ballot, then make sure you vote tomorrow. You can find your nearest voting centre at: <https://aec.gov.au/election/voting.htm#start>

As always, 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

EOFY and Memberships

Members paying union fees by manual annual subscription will be receiving the upcoming subscription invoice for the 2022/2023 FY in early June 2022 via email.

Members who have not yet paid their current 2021/2022 FY subscription, or haven't received an invoice, please contact Anastasia at anastasiap@msav.org.au or call 9632 9623 to receive another one or to pay by credit card over the phone.

Members can also [log in to the membership portal](#) to make sure all contact details are correct. Please email Anastasia if you require another activation link emailed to you.

Members who have had changes in their work hours or have returned from maternity leave, please contact Anastasia to update your subscription rate, in order to maintain the correct coverage for Professional Indemnity Insurance purposes.

Members paying by Direct Debit will receive tax receipts/statements for the current financial year early July 2022. Direct Debit payments for the 2022/2023 financial year will continue as usual.

Members can update their payment details, when necessary, via the membership portal. Any changes to work hours, please contact Anastasia at anastasiap@msav.org.au

You can access your membership details, PI Insurance information and details on what you've paid in membership fees from your own page on our membership portal.

The membership portal allows you to update your membership details, download your PI Insurance certificate and tax receipts when it comes time to prepare your tax return.

Members can also submit a support request to our industrial team or our membership team when required.

It's easy to use, secure and gives you the information you need whenever you need it!

To access your membership portal, visit <https://msav.360membership.com.au/login.aspx>



Union Round Up

New Agreement at Wyndham Clinic

Congratulations to members at the Wyndham Clinic!

This is great news for members who worked hard to win a new agreement with Wyndham Clinic

The new agreement you voted for was approved by the Fair Work Commission this week and is now in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi at heidib@msav.org.au

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

Inaugural MSIR Artists Exhibition

Residents for Victoria Street Drug Solutions (RVSDS) campaigned successfully for the establishment of a trial Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) in 2016/2017.

After the life-saving health service opened in June 2018, RVSDS continued to advocate for improved public amenity in North Richmond and South Abbotsford.

Victoria Street Alive! became RVSDS' signature project that aimed to deliver renewal in the precinct around Victoria Street, bound by Hoddle, Church, Highett and Langridge Streets.

Victoria Street Alive! will mark the end of a successful year with its inaugural MSIR Artists Exhibition with the 2022 theme being "My Community". The exhibition will showcase the diverse artistic talents of the MSIR's clients, the exhibit includes photography, acrylic on canvas, and poetry.

The Union supports this project and thoroughly encourages members to check out the exhibition.

The exhibition will be held at The Hive shopping centre (313 Victoria Street, Abbotsford) from 3 June to 27 June and is open to the public from 11am to 6pm.

However, they need volunteers.

You can help smash the stigma surrounding addiction by volunteering some of your time to support the exhibition.

If this is something that interests you, please contact Alex at alexs@msav.org.au to get more information.

Free Tickets: RISING's The Wilds

Free tickets are available to RISING's The Wilds for frontline workers.

Recognising the extraordinary efforts of Victoria's health and education workers during the pandemic, the Victorian government is giving 15,000 free tickets to the festival's signature event: The Wilds, unique winter takeover of Melbourne's iconic Sidney Myer Music Bowl 1-19 June.

Health care, education and childcare workers can **enter the ballot to receive tickets** to a transformed, technicolour Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

The Wilds features an art park of inflatable sculptures and projections, a main stage turned into an ice-skating rink and pop-up kitchens from Melbourne's favourite restaurants, like 1800 Lasagne, San Telmo and Smith & Daughters.

Eligible frontline workers are invited to register their interest by Sunday 22 May via <https://rising.melbourne/wilds-ballot>

The ballot will be drawn Tuesday 24 May.

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: Hey, guess what, guys? Women vote too – and they may decide the outcome of this election

"Because "women's issues" have been in the headlines over the last year, it may seem strange they have not been more prominent in the election campaign.

Yet it is clear gender has played a crucial role in defining the choice voters will make in the 2022 election, and female voters may well prove decisive in the election outcome on May 21.

The campaign coverage has obsessively focused on Anthony Albanese and Scott Morrison's performance on the campaign trail, rather than on their fitness to lead the nation.

Each man has offered a different model of leadership. After his success in 2019, Morrison continues to focus on wooing male voters who might vote Labor, with his blokey campaign schtick."

Read the entire article by Michelle Arrow in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/hey-guess-what-guys-women-vote-too-and-they-may-decide-the-outcome-of-this-election-182291>

Worth Reading: Albanese poised for victory as Morrison struggles to save himself

"Scott Morrison may be hoping and praying for a second miracle win, but late last week he conceded Australians were looking for a change in the way their government operates.

In one fell swoop there was an admission that the "devil you know" argument was no longer cutting it because his record was no longer the shield he was counting on it to be.

So we had a dramatic pivot.

"As we go into the next period on the other side of the pandemic, I know things that are going to have to change with the way I do things" Morrison said after admitting he had been "a bulldozer"."

Read the entire article by Paul Bongiorno in The New Daily at:
<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2022/05/17/paul-bongiorno-albanese-morrison/>

Worth Reading: Coalition remains non-committal on paid domestic violence leave after Fair Work Commission backs the entitlement for millions

"The Coalition is remaining non-committal about legislating 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave for all workers, after the industrial umpire backed a union push to grant the entitlement to millions of Australians.

Minister for Industrial Relations and Attorney-General Michaelia Cash — who previously argued the entitlement could create a "perverse disincentive" for employers to hire women — said she welcomed the Fair Work Commission's interim decision.

"We will consult with relevant stakeholders, especially family and domestic violence advocacy groups and small business employers on its implications," Senator Cash said.

Read the entire article by Nour Haydar in the ABC at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-18/coalition-remains-non-committal-paid-domestic-violence-leave/101075306>

Worth Reading: Scott Morrison rejects retired judges' call for a stronger anti-corruption model

"Prime Minister Scott Morrison has rebuffed calls from an alliance of 31 former judges making a public plea backing calls for a stronger anti-corruption watchdog to be "urgently" adopted by whoever wins the election.

Mr Morrison said the group were "entitled" to their opinion, but has continued to stand by his government's proposed model for a commonwealth integrity commission.

In an open letter, the judges stressed the need for an integrity body to be backed by all sides of politics that holds public hearings and responds to credible public complaints.

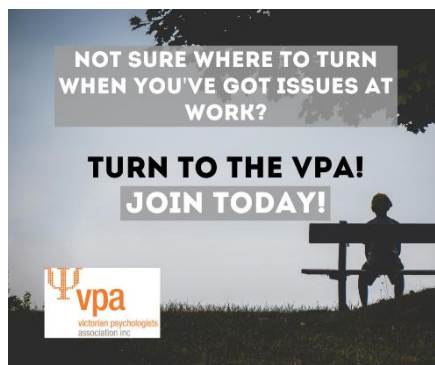
But Mr Morrison said the judge's intervention in the election row over adopting an integrity commission would not change his government's plan."

Read the entire article by Tom Stayner in the SBS at: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/scott-morrison-rejects-retired-judges-call-for-a-stronger-anti-corruption-model/1a8wvve3r>

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 to join in [register for Member Benefits now.](#)

Please note that Member Benefits is run by the ACTU



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