



Stat Report 2014/04

Victorian Government to introduce laws to undermine the right to protest

The Union is an active member of the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) and is extremely concerned to receive reports that the Victorian Liberal National government, led by Denis Napthine, is set to introduce harsh amendments to the Summary Offences Act (1966).

The proposed amendments will further curtail the ability of Victorians to protest and picket over issues of concern. The proposed amendments would also expand the powers of Police and Public Safety Officers (PSOs) to “move on” workers and activists who are engaged in protests, pickets and demonstrations.

The Bill creates a new scheme of “Exclusion Orders”. Under this new scheme, it will be possible for Police to seek to ban individuals from entering a specified public space (or spaces) for up to 12 months. A breach of such an “Exclusion Order” could lead to a prison sentence of up to 2 years.

This is a very serious development and a significant assault on the rights of Victorians to peacefully assemble and to protest the actions of the government.

Just like the federal government, Napthine’s government is also critical of any scrutiny it receives and is clearly aimed at making sure unions and community organisations are not able to voice the concerns of people in public spaces.

Despite Denis Napthine claiming to be an advocate for free speech, freedom of association and freedom to peaceful assembly, it is clear the Victorian Liberal National government has little regard for such vital pillars of a strong and robust democracy.

To make sure the Victorian Liberal National government knows that Victorians won’t take this attack on our democracy lying down, the Victorian Trades Hall Council has organised a rally for 18 February at 10am.

There is also a petition to sign at http://www.weareunion.org.au/napthines_silencing_act

Details for the rally are:

Date: Tuesday Feb 18

Time: 10am

Location: Trades Hall, marching to Parliament House

Wear: Blue or White

It absolutely important to show Denis Napthine and the Liberal National government that Victorians will not accept any attempts to undermine or remove our rights.

- Paul Elliott, assistant secretary

Make an impact and volunteer to Keep Blood Safe

During February we're going to hold a week of action. It's going to signal the start of regular activities in public spaces.

We'll use this week of action to get out on the streets to share important information with Australians about the plans at the Red Cross Blood Service to slash the number of scientists testing and processing blood donations.

We know there are already serious issues arising from the Blood Service's push to become known as a manufacturer with late deliveries of blood, deliveries of the incorrect type of blood or blood product, and errors in the processing of blood products.

To make sure we get the message out to as many people as possible, we're going to be handing out leaflets at train stations on the City Loop. We're going to be hitting the City Loop train stations **each morning from February 17 to 21 from 8am to 9am.**

Can you help us spread the word to Keep Blood Safe? Sign up to volunteer at:
http://www.weareunion.org.au/keep_blood_safe

Union Job Reps Training

The Union strongly values its Job Reps as an essential part of what we do every day – protect and advance the industrial and professional interests of members. As a Job Rep you are the local connection between the Union and members.

To help you better understand your role, the Union provides training and information sessions.

These sessions will help to keep you informed about changes to relevant laws, what's happening in the Union and how to be an effective Job Rep.

The Union also provides opportunities throughout the year to meet up with other Job Reps.

The next Job Rep training day is on **Friday 21 March at 9am for a 9:30am start to 5pm.**

As a Job Rep you can attend training days and activities organised by the Union without losing pay if the training is on a day you would normally be rostered to work.

If you've ever thought of being a Job Rep then this training day is open to you too. If you're interested in being a Job Rep please contact the Union.

Please contact Alex on 9623 9623 or at alexs@msav.org.au to register your attendance.

Calling all Models – Union Promotional Materials

The Union is updating and freshening up the various promotional and member materials we produce. You'll have seen our posters, leaflets and membership forms and it's been a little while since we've updated all of our materials.

We're proud to always include real members in our materials and in order to make sure our materials continue to have real members in them; we're inviting you to nominate yourself to be a model for us.

It will only take a couple of hours out of your day and the photos will be taken by a professional photographer.

The dates set down for the photo-shoot are:

- **February 13** – There are two sessions to choose from, with the first session being from **12pm to 2pm** and the second session being **5pm to 6pm.**
- **February 14** – There is only one session running between **12pm and 2pm.**

If you're interested in being in the photo-shoot please contact Alex at alexs@msav.org.au or by calling 9623 9623 to arrange a time during one of the sessions.

Attention VPA Members: Speakers sought for Long Term Unemployment Conference

The Long Term Unemployment Conference, 18-19 August 2014, QT Hotel Gold Coast will address the causes, consequences and strategies for long term unemployment.

The theme of the conference is BUILDING CAPABILITY, to better understand the social implications of long term unemployment and employment creation programs. The conference will focus on the at-risk groups of disability, mature age, youth, indigenous and the regional unemployed.

Conference topics include: causes of LTU; prevention; early intervention; very LTU; mental health relating to LTU; social inclusion; place based employment; job creation, employer incentives; education, training, apprenticeships, vocational skills and employability; delivery software and innovation.

Would you like to speak at the Conference?

There will be over 50 selected presentations on research, policy, programs and case studies on long term unemployment initiatives.

Call for papers closing 31 March 2014.

Authors or organisations interested in submitting a paper or presenting a workshop are invited to submit an abstract before 31 March.

Conference Advisory Committee includes:

- Professor John Buchanan, Director, Workplace Research Centre, University of Sydney
- Mr Nicholas M Wyman, Chief Executive Officer, WPC Group Ltd
- Mr Tony Nicholson, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Lawrence
- Ms Tracy Adams, Chief Executive Officer, BoysTown
- Ms Jennifer Taylor, Deputy Secretary, Department of Employment.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

- Professor William Mitchell, Centre of Full Employment & Equity, University of Newcastle
- Ms Lynette May, Chief Executive, Disability Employment Australia
- Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, Australian Council of Social Service
- Dr Geoff Waghorn, Head of Social Inclusion and Recovery Research, Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR)
- Professor Phil Lewis, Director of the Centre for Labour Market Research, University of Canberra
- Mr Mark Spinks, Chairman, Babana Mens Group
- Senator Dr Chris Back, Liberal Senator for Western Australia, Chair of the Parliamentary Education and Employment Committee
- Representatives from the Department of Employment and Department of Human Services.

For further information, please visit the conference website at:

<http://longtermunemployment.org.au/>

Frequently Asked Questions about Maternity and Parental Leave

We've been receiving a number of enquiries regarding maternity and parental leave, especially around the notice period before taking leave and what happens with returning to work after maternity or parental leave. So here we provide some general information regarding some of the

most frequently asked questions about maternity and parental leave.

The National Employment Standards (NES) contains legal entitlements to unpaid parental leave. The NES can be supplemented by your EBA which often makes determining the notice requirements and right to return from maternity leave difficult. The EBAs also contain provisions for paid maternity leave. In many cases, maternity leave is only available where a female employee has more than 12 months continuous service with the employer. In the public sector, previous service with another public sector employer may count as service. The entitlements of casual employees are even more complex.

How much notice do I have to give that I want to take maternity leave?

You need to give at least ten weeks' notice of the expected date of birth, and at least 4 weeks' notice of the intended starting date of maternity leave.

Can I extend my maternity leave beyond 12 months?

Yes, you have the right to request the extension of the period of maternity leave by giving the employer written notice of the request for extension at least 4 weeks before the end date of the leave. The employer must respond in writing within 21 days, and can only refuse the request on reasonable business grounds. If your request is refused, the employer must include details of the reasons for refusal in the written response.

Can I go back to work part time?

YES. You have a right to request that you return to work on a part time basis from maternity leave, so that you can effectively meet your responsibilities as a parent, until your child is school age. The employer can only refuse the request on reasonable business grounds.

Note: This does NOT mean that you have to give up your substantive full time position in order to go part-time while your child is under school age.

Can my role be changed while on maternity leave?

NO. You must be allowed to return to your substantive classification. If your substantive position no longer exists, relevant organisational change provisions will apply that is, consultation with you and the Union must occur before any proposed change is implemented.

If you have any questions, contact the office on 9623 9623 or enquiry@msav.org.au.

Philippines Typhoon: Support from Australian unionists assists thousands in remote areas

The generosity of Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA supporters has helped enable the medical treatment of almost 5,000 survivors of Typhoon Haiyan which devastated the Philippines in November last year.

Another 5,500 relief packs have been distributed to affected families.

Thanks to your support the appeal has now topped \$100,000. This has helped enable our Philippines partner, Community Medicine Development Foundation (COMMED), to contribute to four medical missions to remote areas of Samar and Leyte.

You can read the full update from Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA at:
http://www.apheda.org.au/news/1391043290_11042.html

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](#)

Benefits for Union Members

As a union member, you can take advantage of the collective buying power of more than 1.9 million members to get discounts on a great range of products and services. ACTU Member Connect makes sure the products and services are from companies you can rely on to deliver high-quality products with reliable customer service.

There is more information about a range of other benefits union members can access at <http://www.memberconnect.com.au/> or you can call ACTU Member Connect on 1300 362 223.

Keep Blood Safe Hotline

Do you have a story about how changes at the Red Cross Blood Service are already affecting your work, or could likely affect your work?

Send them to alexs@msav.org.au or call 0432 364 515 - we'll make sure you remain anonymous.

Sign the petition at:
<http://bit.ly/KeepBloodSafe>

Join the campaign at:
<http://www.facebook.com/KeepBloodSafe>

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.



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