



## Stat Report 2014/07

### Dealing with Dorevitch

Over recent weeks the Union has been working with a number of members on a range of issues at Dorevitch.

While management continues to ignore that they are the lowest paying pathology service in Victoria, have difficulty in retaining staff, and in some case are unable to fill rosters, the Union actively follow up on matters referred to it by members.

A clear and growing trend of Dorevitch attempting to stop paying allowances and other entitlements has emerged over the past few months. The reasons given for discontinuing change of shift allowances has been nothing short of fanciful. When these are brought to our attention we have been successful in having them reinstated and often with back pay. If you are the victim of such a change let us know. Beware of Dodgy Doros!

While Dorevitch's management remains unwilling to enter into negotiations with the Union for a new enterprise agreement, the Union remains open to restarting negotiations with management.

If you're working for Dorevitch and have concerns about your pay; your conditions; and your entitlements, we strongly urge you to get in contact with the Union.

Contact the Union on 9623 9623 or at [enquiry@msav.org.au](mailto:enquiry@msav.org.au)

### Keep Blood Safe – The Week of Action in Review

Last week the Keep Blood Safe team spent the week handing out leaflets at the train stations along Melbourne's city loop. Each morning you would've seen us decked out in our red t-shirts with bold white writing saying "Keep Blood Safe in Laboratories not in Factories". It's a powerful message, which thousands of people saw as they started their day, and resulted in hundreds of people taking our leaflets to find out more.

Each morning we had people interested to speak with us to find out more on the spot. Every single person was shocked to find out that the Australian Red Cross Blood Service is jeopardising the safety and reliability of the nation's blood supply by cutting scientists from testing and processing blood donations.

One of the most memorable comments over the week was: "Cutting scientists from testing blood is just plain dangerous."

It certainly summed up the feeling from the people we spoke to over the week.

Right now we're working on the next steps for our campaign to Keep Blood Safe but we need your help to keep the pressure on the Red Cross Blood Service.

Make sure you sign the petition and let your family and friends know about it too:  
<http://bit.ly/KeepBloodSafe>

You can also find great graphics to share through social media at <http://www.facebook.com/KeepBloodSafe>

## NPAAC Consultation on Requirements for the Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories

The Union has received notification from NPAAC about public consultation being open on the draft publication "Requirements for the Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories". There is a very tight timeline for making submissions, with submissions closing on 21 March. The NPAAC will accept late submissions but will not consider them as part of the consultation process.

Given the nature of the publication and its relevance to the work of our members, it is important that the Union make a submission.

The NPAAC has circulated the following documents as part of the public consultation:

- The cover letter outlining the consultation;
- The draft "Requirements for the Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories"; and
- The table comparing the current and revised documents.

You can find these documents at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-npaac-publications-draft.htm>

To allow time for the Union to prepare the submission, please **send your feedback by no later than 14 March** to Alex Schlotzer at [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au).

## Medicare and fees for GP visits

The Abbott government continues to raise suggestions about changes to Medicare that would include charging an up-front fee to visit a bulk-billing GP. This proposal is strongly opposed by the Union as it will harm the poorest and sickest in our communities and has met with strong opposition from the community as well as the Australian Medical Association. And this comes on top of plans by the Abbott government to fully sell off Medibank Private (one of the most successful government-owned business returning large surpluses).

Patient co-payments already account for a shockingly high 17% of health spending in Australia's universal healthcare system. Data presented by the National Health Performance Authority from 2013 shows that 15% of people have delayed seeing a GP because of the cost.

To put things in perspective:

- Over 2.2 million Australians live below the poverty line, including approximately 575,000 children.
- Approximately 27.4% of people with a disability live below the poverty line.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to experience poverty than other Australians.

For millions of Australians, \$6 is simply something they can't afford despite the arguments from proponents of the fee, including Tony Abbott's former policy adviser, that it is only the cost of "a hamburger and fries".

Turning those with the greatest need away from seeking healthcare altogether risks more people visiting hospital emergency wards, adding more strain on the hospital system. In some parts of Australia access to bulk-billing GPs is already difficult with more and more Australians relying on hospital emergency wards for health issues that would normally be dealt with by a GP.

This clearly constitutes an assault on Medicare and our public health system which will

ultimately undermine the universality of Medicare. Rather than denounce such a proposal the federal Health Minister, Peter Dutton, has failed to rule out the option, which would suggest that the Abbott government is seriously considering this proposal.

The Union will continue to oppose the Government's efforts to undermine the universality of Medicare to make sure people get the medical treatment they need, not what they can afford.

Watch this space for more about Medicare.

## Union strongly opposes mandatory detention and offshore processing

The Union has always taken a strong stand against Australia's policy of mandatory detention. In light of recent reports about the terrible conditions in detention centres on Nauru; riots on Manus Island and the death of a young asylum seeker, the Union feels it is important to reaffirm our stand against mandatory detention and join the calls for an end to mandatory detention and offshore processing.

Below is the Union's policy in opposition to mandatory detention:

"Professor Patrick McGorry, professor of youth mental health at the University of Melbourne and Australian of the year in 2010, described Australian's Asylum Seeker detention centres as 'factories for producing mental illness'

Research carries out in 2006 by the Psychiatric Research and Teaching Unit of the Liverpool Hospital (NSW) into the impact of immigration detention and temporary protection on the mental health of asylum seekers found that:

*Past immigration detention and ongoing temporary protection each contributed independently to risk of ongoing PTSD, depression and mental health-related disability. Longer detention was associated with more severe mental disturbance, an effect that persisted for an average of 3 years after release.*

We, as psychologists and other health professionals, take a stand against practices that increase the incidence of mental illness in the community by calling for an end to the mandatory detention of asylum seekers, and calls on the Federal Government to respect the recent High Court decision and abandon offshore processing of asylum seeker claims and adopt a policy of onshore processing only.

We ask our Union Officials to forward this motion to the relevant government bodies and promote actions may lead to an end to mandatory detention."

In the face of the Australia's asylum seeker policy, the MSAV, VPA and AHP for the reasons expressed at the time reiterates the call of the 2011 AGM of the HSU No 4 Branch for the Abbott government to end mandatory detention and offshore processing.

## International Women's Day

March 8 marks International Women's Day and this year the Victorian Trades Hall Council is holding a morning tea to celebrate on March 7 – you'll notice that March 8 is a Saturday.

Each year thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. There are diverse local activities connecting women from all around the world with events ranging from rallies, trade union activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and more.

As part of this year's celebration morning tea, the VTHC will be holding a forum on "What are we working for in 2014?".

It's a great event and you're encouraged to go along and celebrate women and their contribution to a better world for International Women's Day.

**When: March 7 at 11am**  
**Where: Bella Union Bar at Trades Hall**

For more information about International Women's Day visit  
<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

## Eating Disorders and Obesity Conference: Call for Abstracts

Present at the 2014 Eating Disorders and Obesity Conference and have your full paper published in the book of proceedings with an ISBN. Don't miss your opportunity to be considered as a presenter at this year's Conference.

**Call for abstracts close Friday 28th February, 2014.**

Abstracts may address one of the conference themes of Assessment, Early Diagnosis, Treatment, Recovery and Maintenance, Prevention Strategies, Risk Factors, Life Cycle Factors, Body Image, Self Esteem and Social Media.

The conference will bring together clinical practitioners, academics, mental health experts and public health administrators from Australasia.

Submit your abstract by visiting the Conference website or contact the conference secretariat on 07 5502 2068 for further information.

The Eating Disorders and Obesity Conference will be held on 26 & 27 May on the Gold Coast.

<http://eatingdisordersaustralia.org.au/index.html>

## 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](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au) to register your attendance.**

## Worth Reading: "Why Australian workplaces need much better leaders"

Over the last decade, Australia has experienced a productivity slump. Our long term productivity growth ranks well below the OECD average, and significantly below that enjoyed

by leading economies.

However, the reality of falling productivity and its consequences has been masked for most ordinary Australians by the mining boom, which has created jobs and driven wages up.

A number of international studies have suggested that in many workplaces, the quality of leadership and management skills can have significant direct effects on productivity, as well as indirect effects through their consequences for how workplaces adapt and to changing business conditions and innovate.

[Read the full article by Professor Peter Gahan \(Director for the Centre for Workplace Leadership\) at The Conversation](#)

## 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.

### The ACTU/ME Footy Tipping Competition is back for 2014

A reminder for union footy tipsters that the ACTU/ME Bank AFL & NRL footy tipping competition is happening again in 2014. The NRL season begins on Thursday 6th March and the AFL kicks off on Friday 14th March. There is a total of \$2000 in prizes up for grabs with the highest tipster in each competition winning a \$1,000 EveryDay Transaction Account.

So union members make sure you go to [www.footytips.com.au](http://www.footytips.com.au) to either register as a new tipster or reactivate your footy tipping profile from previous years and then click on the links below for either comp.

Handy tip: If you're reactivating your tipping profile remember to use your username NOT your email address to log in.

[AFL Tipping Comp](#)

[NRL Tipping Comp](#)

[Click here for full competition details.](#)

There is more information about a range of

## 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](mailto: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.

other benefits union members can access at <http://www.memberconnect.com.au/> or you can call ACTU Member Connect on 1300 362 223.



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