



## Stat Report 2014/09

### Another big week coming to Keep Blood Safe

Following on from our highly successful Week of Action in February we've decided to have another Week of Action.

Starting next week on 24 March, our committed volunteers who want to Keep Blood Safe will be handing out leaflets across Melbourne's CBD. And we'll also be hitting the train stations through Melbourne's city-loop.

Unfortunately the Australian Red Cross Blood Service is continuing its plans to be a so-called 'great manufacturer' with many scientists still uncertain about whether they'll still be employed to keep blood safe. We've started receiving reports that members are getting notification that their positions will no longer exist in April. As you can imagine this is leaving many members wondering whether they'll have a job and be able to continue their vital work to keep blood safe.

The Union continues to work with individual members to resolve outstanding matters as part of this forced, unnecessary transition.

As more people in the community find out what is happening at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, the more pressure we're able to apply to management to stop cutting scientists from testing and processing blood donations.

Here's what you can do to support our Week of Action:

1. Sign the petition at <http://bit.ly/KeepBloodSafe> - if you've already signed it share it with your friends and family.
2. Write Letters to the Editor and call talk back radio. We have some great tips at: <http://msav.org.au/faqs-mainmenu-25/7-general/1875-keep-blood-safe-letters-to-the-editor-and-talk-back-radio>
3. Join us to hand out leaflets and share our message to Keep Blood Safe with more people

#### ***Don't forget about our 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.

### Flu vaccines and you – what you need to know

The Union has received information from members about efforts by some of Victoria's health providers to force members to have flu vaccinations. In one circumstance the Union understands that the service is insisting members take the flu vaccine and if they refuse they have to state why and wear a mask in high risk areas.

Well here are the facts:

*You cannot be forced to take the influenza vaccination and you do not need to state why you are refusing to take the vaccine. But if you feel it necessary to give a reason then all you need to say is that you don't want to take the vaccine.*

It's very generous for health providers to offer the influenza vaccination free of charge but they cannot insist on you taking it.

If you have any questions call the Union on 9623 9623.

## Morwell's Health and Well-being

Members living throughout the Latrobe Valley region have spent the past month inundated with toxic smoke from the fire at the Hazelwood coal mine in Morwell.

There are numerous reports in the media about how the smoke is having a massive impact on the health and well-being of residents; which included calls for those at serious risk to leave town.

The Union is interested in hearing from members in the Latrobe Valley about how the situation has impacted on the health and well-being of residents; and its impacts on the provision of health services in the area.

If you have some news or a story to share let us know at [enquiry@msav.org.au](mailto:enquiry@msav.org.au)

## Professional Development Seminar for Psychologists

The next professional development seminar is on 7 May and is open only to VPA Inc members.

Professor James Ogloff will be our guest speaker, and he is the Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Director of Psychological Services for the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health.

We will have the full details of the presentation from Professor Ogloff in the very near future.

**Professional Development Seminar**  
**Wednesday 7 May 2014 at the Treacy Centre Parkville**

To register for this Professional Development Seminar please email us at [enquiry@msav.org.au](mailto:enquiry@msav.org.au)

## Superannuation research reveals gender gap persists

Research released by the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) shows that women still lag substantially behind men when it comes to their superannuation savings.

The research released by ASFA shows the average superannuation account balance at retirement for women is around \$105,000 compared to men who have a balance at retirement of around \$197,000.

It also showed a strong gender gap that still persists when it comes to current superannuation account balances with men, on average, having almost double the amount in savings as women. The research also stresses, yet again, that approximately 90 per cent of women will retire without enough super to maintain their lifestyles in retirement.

In light of International Women's Day last week, the ASFA is urging all women to take an hour out of their day to sort out their superannuation in what they call the Super Sorter Power Hour.

For further information about how to get the most out of your superannuation, visit [www.superduru.com.au](http://www.superduru.com.au)

**NOTE: This is not financial advice and should not be taken as such.** This is provided for your information only and any advice regarding your superannuation should be sought from your superannuation account manager(s).

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

The Union will be making a submission to the NPAAC's public consultation on the Requirements for the Supervision of Medical Pathology Laboratories. You can find the relevant consultation documents at:

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

### *Meeting to prepare Union Submission:*

The Union will be holding a meeting of interested scientist members on **18 March at 3:30pm at the Union's offices in Carlton** to discuss the Union's submission.

If you are interested in attending this meeting please let us know at [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au) or by calling 9623 9623

## Union Job Reps Training – 21 March

Our first Job Rep training day for 2014 is on **Friday 21 March at 9am for a 9:30am start to 5pm.**

Whether you're an experienced Job Rep, just starting out or interested in being a Job Rep then this training session is for you! Make sure you register as soon as possible.

**Please contact Alex on 9623 9623 or at [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au) if you have any queries or to register your attendance.**

## RACV Sir Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship 2014

Sir Edmund Herring Memorial Scholarship 2014 is now open!

The RACV Sir Edmund Herring Scholarship aims to prevent road trauma and improve the quality of care in the area of road trauma by funding projects by health care professionals.

The kinds of projects considered for the Scholarship include those that:

- May focus on those who are directly or indirectly impacted by road trauma
- May take the form of research, practical application or preventative programs
- Must be able to be completed within one year.

Applicants must be an Australian resident working in Victoria.

Get all the details at [www.racv.com.au](http://www.racv.com.au)

## Worth Reading: "Abetz's Penalty Raids Will Put Workers At Risk"

Minister for Employment Eric Abetz announced this week that the government will introduce legislation to limit union entry rights and striking abilities, as well as increase "flexibility" in the workplace.

The move comes as the Prime Minister has been seeking to build the longer-term case for scrapping penalty rates, bashing union agreements at Toyota and SPC, and asking the Productivity Commission to weigh in on the issue.

If passed, Abetz's changes would make it easier for employers to reduce penalty rates for workers. But a brief look at the results of such workplace "flexibility" and the trading of penalty rates in Britain should serve as a warning to Australia.

[Read the full article by Ben Moxham at New Matilda](#)

## 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.

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**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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