



Stat Report 2014/13

Easter Saturday and the Agreement

There have been some weird and wonderful interpretations of our agreement about Easter Saturday and people's entitlements, and unfortunately the Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association (VHIA) issued incorrect advice.

Under the public sector agreement (and many private sector agreements), full time employees can choose to be paid for Easter Saturday, take a day off in lieu within 4 weeks, or have a day added to annual leave. Part-timers in the public sector are entitled to pro-rata payment for Easter Saturday.

You may have heard that if you ordinarily work Monday to Friday only and do not work on Easter Saturday you are entitled **ONLY** to take one day off in lieu, within four weeks of the Easter Saturday public holiday. This is incorrect!

You may have also been told that part time employees are only entitled to Easter Saturday provisions if they work every day from Monday to Friday. This is also incorrect.

If you think your employer is refusing to give you your correct entitlement, contact the Union immediately so we can pursue any claims to that effect.

Please note that there are differences in entitlements between the public and private sectors. If you're in the private sector please contact the Union about your entitlements.

MSAV | VPA | AHP Annual Conference – 30 May 2014

The MSAV | VPA | AHP Annual Conference is on **Friday 30 May at 9am for a 9:30am start to 5pm.**

The Annual Conference will feature plenary sessions on the state of public health in Victoria and the current industrial landscape and challenges for the MSAV, VPA Inc and AHP. Plus we'll be taking stock and looking to the future and the next round of bargaining.

We're excited to have Craig McGregor, secretary of the Victorian Health Professionals Association, join our panel discussion on the state of public health in Victoria. Craig will bring an invaluable perspective on healthcare based on their members' experiences.

With this year being an election year, we've secured the Victorian Minister for Health & Ageing, David Davis; Opposition Shadow Minister for Health and Mental Health, Mr Gavin Jennings; and Colleen Hartland the Victorian Greens health spokesperson.

They'll outline and discuss their healthcare policies and impact of the state budget on healthcare; plus you'll have an opportunity to ask them the tough questions about healthcare.

Plus the in-coming secretary of Victorian Trades Hall Council, Luke Hilakari, will be there to discuss the campaign to ensure Victorians have a government that looks after healthcare and

puts workers first.

The Annual Conference is free and open to all members.

Conference Details:

Date: 30 May 2014

Time: 9am to 5pm

Venue: DownTowner on Lygon at 66 Lygon St, Carlton - [check it out on Google Maps](#)

Door Prize: By attending you're in the draw to win a Kindle donated by the ACTU

Confirmed Speakers:

- David Davis – Victorian Minister for Health
- Gavin Jennings – Victorian Shadow Minister for Health and Mental Health
- Colleen Hartland – Victorian Greens spokesperson for health
- Craig McGregor – Secretary, Victorian Health Professionals Association
- Luke Hilakari – Secretary-elect, Victorian Trades Hall Council

Check out the **Agenda** – [click here](#) | Register your attendance – [click here](#)



It's up to us to Keep Blood Safe

Last week the Red Cross Blood Service finalised its structure to become a 'manufacturer'.

Last week 20+ scientists that once tested and processed blood donations were made redundant.

With fewer scientists at the Red Cross Blood Service, concerns continue about the future ongoing safety of the blood supply, especially in light of management's refusal to release its risk management plans.

But because of your support we were able to let more than 100,000 Australians know about what is happening at the Red Cross Blood Service with over 1,500 people signing the Keep Blood Safe petition.

Since the Australian Red Cross Blood Service refuses to report errors and problems publicly, it is up to us to keep an eye on the Blood Service.

From next week the Keep Blood Safe campaign will become "Red Cross Blood Watch".

Anna Stewart Memorial Project

Last week to register your interest!

The aim of the Anna Stewart Memorial Project is to increase women's involvement in the union movement. During the two week project, women union members from diverse workplaces and occupations are placed with their own union, and sometimes with another union, for two weeks.

They experience the full range of union work, including mass meetings, enterprise bargaining negotiations and hearings at Fair Work Australia.

In addition, all participants meet for three and a half days group training during the project at the Victorian Trades Hall Council to discuss women, work and union issues.

The Project runs from 5 May to 16 May. This is the last week to register your interest in participating in the Anna Stewart Memorial Project. Please note that the Anna Stewart Memorial Project will also be run later in the year.

Contact the Union on 9623 9623 or at enquiry@msav.org.au to discuss your participation in detail.

Senate Inquiry into Australia's Innovation System

With a federal government that seems to have misplaced the importance of science to the future development of Australia, a landmark inquiry into Australia's innovation system has been secured by the ALP and the Australian Greens.

The Inquiry comes at a particularly important time as many of the solutions to the big challenges facing Australia will come from our science community and the innovation our science community generates. The Inquiry's terms of reference are very broad so as to capture the full breadth of the science community and its contribution to Australian life.

Included among the terms of reference for the Inquiry are:

- The need to attract new investment in innovation to secure high skill, high wage jobs and industries in Australia, as well as the role of public policy in nurturing a culture of innovation and a healthy innovation ecosystem;
- The Australian Government's approach to innovation, especially with respect to the funding of education and research, the allocation of investment in industries, and the maintenance of capabilities across the economy; and
- Policy actions to attract, train and retain a healthy research and innovation workforce.

You can read the entire Terms of Reference for the Inquiry at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Innovation_System/Terms_of_Reference

The Union is very clear about the importance of science to Australia, especially for the ongoing healthcare needs of all Australians, and will be making a submission to the Inquiry.

We strongly encourage individual members to make their own submission.

Submissions to the Inquiry close on 31 July 2014 with the report to be handed down on the first sitting day of July 2015.

For more details about this important Inquiry and to make a submission visit:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Innovation_System



Professional Development Seminar for Psychologists

This is the last week you can register for the upcoming professional development seminar "Practical Approaches to Managing Personality Disorders" with Professor James Ogloff.

The seminar is proving to be quite popular and we strongly encourage you to register to save your spot and to help us finalise catering arrangements. **Registration closes Friday 2 May.**

For information about the seminar and to register your attendance visit:

<http://msav.org.au/news-mainmenu-2/latest-news/1885-vpa-pd-practical-approaches-to-managing-personality-disorders>

Changes to Medicare threatens universal healthcare

The state and federal budgets will be handed down over the next fortnight. And already there has been a great deal of commentary about the depth of cuts to public health; with plans floated for co-payment fees to see their local GP.

There are some very real issues facing Australia's healthcare system but to maintain the mantra of 'sustainability and affordability' will fundamentally see our healthcare system collapse as patients' actual healthcare needs aren't met at the time they present.

And we can expect the health of Australians to begin to suffer with the Abbott Government giving strong consideration to a proposal for up-front fees to visit the GP. This proposal hasn't been confirmed but given the growing commentary around the proposal, there is greater concern than ever that this year's budget will see the introduction of up-front fees to visit the GP.

We already know from the experience of changes to Medicare under the Howard Government that fewer and fewer GPs offered bulk-billing, forcing more and more people to present to hospital emergency wards for treatment of colds, flus and minor medical complaints; the very sort of thing that GPs used to handle. And it is this fact which makes the claims by the Abbott Government that it wants to slash unnecessary GP visits to be entirely disingenuous.

It is clear that the conservatives are gearing up for an attack on the basic underpinnings of Medicare – access for all Australians to affordable health care, irrespective of income, where they live, and their social status.

Should the Abbott Government be successful in its changes to Medicare by introducing up-front fees to visit GPs, we can expect to see an increasingly unhealthy Australia; and result in more significant costs to public health and the budget.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE
30 MAY 2014
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If not print out a copy and leave it on the noticeboard or in the staff room for your colleagues.

Union Shopper Competition

Union Shopper is currently running a fantastic competition with an awesome \$2000 home theatre package prize.

Enter today by visiting www.unionshopper.com.au/win2014 | **Entries close 30/11/2014.**

Let your union mates know that they can enter, too. You'll get an additional entry in the draw for each friend who enters as a result of your referral.

Good luck!

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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