



## Stat Report 2014/19

### Our Community Counts – March for a Fair Australia

Last week there was an incredible turn out of people voicing their dissatisfaction about cuts to health, education and pensions. But this is only the beginning.

The “Bust the Budget” rally showed the continuing anger about the state and federal budgets and their impacts on poor and vulnerable Victorians.

On Sunday 6 July, community groups, churches, environment groups and unions will join together to march for a fair Australia.

We want governments that respect healthcare and health workers, not one that cuts jobs and services.

Join with us, community groups, churches, environment groups and other unions for the “Our Community Counts” rally and march for a fair Australia.

#### **Rally Details**

**When:** 6 July at 1pm

**Where:** Victorian Trades Hall – corner of Victoria and Lygon Sts

Sign up and help promote the “Our Community Counts” rally at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/504621386304317/>

### Important Advice on Vaccinations

The Union has received information from members about efforts by some of Victoria’s health providers to force members to have a range of vaccinations; not just insisting on the influenza vaccination being taken.

In one circumstance the Union understands that a service is insisting members take a range of vaccinations.

Well here are the facts:

*Just like for influenza vaccines, you cannot be forced to take a 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.*

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

### Healthscope and their pay offer

The Union has received an offer for a new agreement to cover scientists and technicians in Healthscope. We are currently analysing the offer in terms of making a recommendation to members.

We have been requested by Healthscope to give an "in principle" view about the proposal by close of business Friday, the 27th of June.

To get members' feedback the Union will be holding a series of membership meetings over the next week.

If you are unable to attend a meeting in your workplace and have comments you would like to make about the offer, please email Matt Hammond at [matth@msav.org.au](mailto:matth@msav.org.au)

## Returning to Work from Parental Leave

It has come to the Union's attention that some public sector employers are pressuring members to sign new work contracts on their return to work from parental leave, if there are agreed temporary variations in working hours upon returning.

Signing a new employment contract is not necessary and can have significant implications in other areas of employment, always to the detriment of an employee's interests.

Whilst the variation in hours needs to be in writing, there is no need to form a new work contract with an employer to record this. There are long-standing and simple ways of recording the agreed changes in hours that do not involve entering into a new employment.

It is clear that the strategy of asking employees to sign a new employment contract is being pursued by some health services to con members into permanently altering their employment.

Under the provisions of the public sector EBA, returning to work part time after parental leave is a temporary arrangement until the child is of school age at your substantive classification. It is by no means a new employment arrangement as suggested by some employers.

By signing a new contract of employment, the change in hours would be permanent, and you will not be entitled to return to the substantive position you held before taking parental leave.

The parental leave clause is a result of many years of hard work and is being seriously undermined by this strategy. The Union strongly advises not to sign any new agreement when returning to work from parental leave, and to contact us at the office if such an arrangement is suggested by your employer.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Union on 9623 9623.

## NPAAC Public Consultation on Draft Documents

The Union has been given notification that NPAAC is conducting public consultations into two draft documents:

- Requirements for Procedures Related to the Collection, Processing, Storage and Issue of Human Haemopoietic Progenitor Cells
- Guidelines for Point of Care Testing

Copies of the draft document can be downloaded at:

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

**Submissions to the public consultation period must be received by 23 July 2014.**

The Union will be preparing submissions to both of the draft documents. To ensure the best

possible submissions, the Union is calling on interested members to assist in preparing the submissions.

Please contact the Union at [enquiry@msav.org.au](mailto:enquiry@msav.org.au) to assist with the preparation of the Union's submissions.

## Keep Super Fair

Australian workers who currently earn up to \$37,000 per year get a tax rebate from the Federal Government's Low Income Superannuation Contribution (LISC).

For eligible workers this contribution can be up to \$500, paid annually into their super account, on the tax paid on their superannuation contributions. The LISC rebate was introduced to make superannuation tax concessions more equitable.

**The Abbott Government is now proposing to abandon it.**

Without the LISC, the lowest-paid 3.6 million working Australians would receive no tax break on their compulsory super contributions, while the highest-paid workers would continue to receive a tax break of 30 per cent.

This change will disproportionately impact on women. In fact 1 in 2 working women will be affected.

The Union thinks it's unfair to penalise people for saving for their retirement.

Make your voice heard to Keep Super Fair at <http://keepsuperfair.com.au/>

## Senate Inquiry into Australia's Innovation System

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.

In order to prepare the Union's submission to this Inquiry, a special meeting of interested members will be convened on 16 July at 4pm at the Union's offices in Carlton. If you're interested in attending this meeting please contact Alex Schlotzer on 9623 9623 or at [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au)

We strongly encourage individual members to make their own submission.

**Submissions to the Inquiry close on 31 July 2014.**

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

### Union's Submission Meeting

**Date:** 16 July

**Time:** 4pm to 5pm

**Location:** Level 1, 62 Lygon Street

**RSVP:** [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au)

## 2014 FACTA Workshop: Prescription Drugs: Analysis and Behavioural Effects

The 2014 FACTA workshop will be held on September 5, 2014 in Adelaide, South Australia directly following the 22nd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences of the

Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society.

Professor Jan Ramaekers, Psychopharmacologist from The Netherlands who is Head of the Department of Neuropsychology and Psychopharmacology, Maastricht University (The Netherlands) will be the key speaker at the workshop.

Professor Ramaekers has conducted a large number of experimental studies on the effects of medicinal drugs, such as antidepressants, antipsychotics, anxiolytics, anticonvulsants and antihistamines on cognition, psychomotor function and actual driving performance of healthy volunteers and patients and is well placed to talk about behavioural effects of prescription drugs.

The workshop will also feature speakers talking about the difficulties associated with prescription drugs in our community.

**Registration is now open until 1st August 2014.**

People can register online and get more information about the Workshop at [www.facta.org.au](http://www.facta.org.au)

## ACTU National Women's Conference

The 2014 ACTU National Women's Conference is a 2 day conference primarily aimed at women unionists but also open to a broader network of individuals and organisations working to improve the lives of working women.

The conference will identify the current political and industrial challenges facing working women and develop key industrial, organising and campaign priorities and action plans.

There will be a focus on developing strategies to mobilise union, political and community support for campaign priorities as well as on developing practical organising, campaign and leadership skills.

**When:** 21 to 22 August

**Where:** City Convention Centre – 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

**Speakers include:**

- The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition
- Ged Kearney, President Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, ITUC

To register for the conference or for the Anna Stewart Memorial Dinner visit:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2014-actu-national-women-s-conference-and-anna-stewart-memorial-dinner/event-summary-bb60995bdd24479ba4c41dc03a94f04b.aspx>

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ACTU Member Connect makes sure the products and

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services are from companies you can rely on to deliver high-quality products with reliable customer service.

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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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