



11 July 2014

Stat Report 2014/22

Dorevitch continues to show it lacks respect for its workforce

Earlier this week the Union wrote to Dorevitch regarding a number of issues.

Specifically we raised ongoing concerns about the workload in the haematology department after reports from members of a growing incidence of blood films being transferred from other laboratories, including Western Health labs, Frankston Hospital, Ballarat Base Hospital, Warragul Hospital, for processing by scientists in the Heidelberg laboratory.

The Union specifically wanted Dorevitch management to respond to three key questions, including:

1. What protocols or procedures does Dorevitch Pathology apply to ensure the workloads of scientists are fair and reasonable and do not cause injury or duress?
2. Does Dorevitch Pathology monitor the impacts of increased workloads on scientific staff in the haematology laboratory resulting from additional blood films sent from other laboratories?
3. Will Dorevitch Pathology consider appointing additional scientists to assist with increased workloads in the Heidelberg Haematology laboratory?

We think these are pertinent questions given the concerns raised by members.

And while we were writing to Dorevitch we took time to raise concerns about notices containing Union information placed on notice boards in the Heidelberg laboratory being deliberately removed.

The Union reminded Dorevitch that Union members and Job Reps are authorised under certain provisions of the Fair Work Act 2009 to place relevant material in the workplace, and the unauthorised removal of such material could constitute a contravention of provisions of the Act.

And to these issues, Dorevitch responded with:

“The issues you raise below are none of the MSAVs bloody business.”

This is the actual response the Union received. As you can see the response is rude and completely surprising given that these issues are indeed Union business.

Rest assured we will continue to pursue Dorevitch about workloads and access to Union information in workplaces.

VPA Annual General Meeting and Professional Development

This year's Annual General Meeting for the VPA and the next Professional Development session will be held on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at the Tracey Centre in Parkville.

The topic for the professional development is "The diagnosis and management of sleep disorders", which will be presented by Associate Professor Gerard Kennedy.

Associate Professor Gerard Kennedy has extensive expertise in the diagnosis and psychological treatment of sleep disorders. He has developed expertise in sleep psychology during more than 20 years of practice as a senior clinical psychologist in the Department(s) of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at both the Austin Hospital and Monash Medical Centre. He is also employed in the Psychology Department at Victoria University in Melbourne, where he maintains a strong research program in the area of sleep and circadian rhythms, but also finds time to do research in other areas of psychology.

Associate Professor Gerard Kennedy has published more than 100 articles in refereed journals and books, and given many conference presentations, presentations to the media and community organizations. Many of the articles and presentations that he has done have been on issues related to sleep and health psychology. He has received over 40 grants from universities, the ARC, NHMRC and TAC. He has also supervised the research theses of more than 50 PhD, DPsych, Masters and fourth year students and supervised more than 20 probationary psychologists to full registration in the state of Victoria.

Save the Date: Wednesday 17 September for the next Professional Development session and the VPA Annual General Meeting

MSAV Members Meeting at the Heidelberg Lab

MSAV members at the Heidelberg Laboratory are reminder that there is a Member Meeting organised for **Tuesday 22 July at 12pm in the Conference Room.**

If you have any queries please contact the Union on 9623 9623

No Pay? No Way!

We know that members are working longer hours without being properly compensated. From our work on the Public Sector agreement in 2011-2012, we know that 2503 members were performing unpaid work. We also know that members were working on average an additional 2.5 hours unpaid each week.

We estimated that members were doing approximately \$19 million (\$18.95mil) in unpaid work each year.

And since 2011-12, we know that this has only become worse with many employers unwilling to back-fill maternity and long service leave positions; and the slow speed at which vacancies are filled.

We also know that members feel the pressure. We know they don't want to let their patients down and want to be 'good professionals'.

But the reality is that by regularly doing unpaid work members are at risk of suffering injuries like depression, anxiety and even heart attacks.

We have some ambitious goals for our campaign, most notably:

- Enforcing our Workload Clauses;
 - Having fewer members doing unpaid work; and
 - Eliminating injuries arising from high workloads
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Over the coming month the Union will be organising with Job Reps a series of workplace meetings to outline the campaign and discuss the big issues we face.

Keep an eye out for details of meetings in your workplace.

Download & use one of our graphics for your email signature to help raise awareness of our campaign.



OR



Our Community Counts

On Sunday unions, community groups, churches, environment groups joined together at Queen Victoria Gardens to march for a fair Australia.

The turnout in Melbourne was very large with reports of 20-30,000 people attending. And across Australia numbers attending rallies grew from the Bust the Budget rallies held only a couple of months ago.

Again the community raised its voice against the Abbott Government's attacks on the poor, vulnerable, elderly and unemployed.

The rally also spoke volumes about the attacks on the elderly, people who are differently abled, students, the unemployed and most vulnerable.

It's clear that Australians are sending the Abbott and Napthine Governments a clear message that, like the rest of the community, we want governments that support workers and makes sure it supports our communities.

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/>

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

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.

Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL) Winter Symposium

New Act, New Roles: The Mental Health Act 2014 (VIC)

The ANZAPPL will give attendees to their Winter Symposium the opportunity to hear perspectives from the leaders of key agencies on the practical application and roles of the new Mental Health Act.

Speakers include:

- Lynne Coulson Barr - Mental Health Complaints Commissioner
- Dr Mark Oakley Browne - Chief Psychiatrist, Victoria
- Matthew Carroll - President, Mental Health Tribunal

Following on from the speakers, a panel discussion will be facilitated by Professor Jim Ogloff

Event Details:

Date: 2 August 2014

Time: 1:30pm to 6pm

Venue: Victoria University Conference Centre, Level 12, 300 Flinders St, Melbourne

For details about this event contact ANZAPPL on 9349 2220 or email info@conorg.com.au

Worth Reading: The importance of the labour movement in reducing inequality

Few people understand how damaging large inequalities can be. There is a common view that inequality only matters if it creates poverty or if it is widely regarded as unfair. But in reality, inequality has much deeper and more powerful effects on the wellbeing of the vast majority. Our own research, and that of many other researchers around the world, shows that almost all the health and social problems which tend to be more common lower down the social ladder also tend to be worse in societies with bigger income differences between rich and poor.

Read the entire paper by Professor Richard Wilkinson and Professor Kate Pickett in the Centre for Labour and Social Studies in the UK [PDF download]

http://classonline.org.uk/docs/2013_04_Thinkpiece_-_labour_movement_and_a_more_equal_society.pdf

Worth Reading: New out-of-pocket costs will hit people with empty pockets

A timely submission from the Grattan Institute outlines how the proposed Medicare co-payment will hit the most vulnerable the hardest.

“Aside from direct financial consequences for governments, co-payments have a much bigger impact on vulnerable people. In response to co-payments, poorer and sicker people reduce their use of health care more than healthier, wealthier people. Increasing patient fees ever more will make the system even more unfair.” (page 13)

Read the entire submission by Stephen Duckett and Peter Breadon from the Grattan Institute at: <http://grattan.edu.au/publications/news-and-opinion/post/new-out-of-pocket-costs-will-hit-people-with-empty-pockets/>

Worth Reading: Our super system: unjust, inefficient and increasingly indefensible

Reforming the taxation of superannuation by removing tax concessions for high income earners would save the Commonwealth government \$9 billion dollars in lost revenue per year – and would be fairer to all Australians.

The effect of the current concessions is that those who are old and rich pay less tax. As a result, the young and not so rich pay more tax.

“The super reforms proposed would raise \$9 billion a year. \$9 billion a year is about the total value of all of the specific cuts in the last budget, including medical co-payments, overseas development aid, increased recovery of student fees, family tax benefit, and unemployment benefits”.

Read the full piece by John Daley from the Grattan Institute at:
<http://grattan.edu.au/publications/news-and-opinion/post/our-super-system-unjust-inefficient-and-increasingly-indefensible/>

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[Medical Scientists Association of Victoria](#) | [Victorian Psychologists Association Inc](#) | [Association of Hospital Pharmacists](#)



Get Active! Help change Victoria!

Here's what's happening in the campaign this week:

Sunday, 13 July – Bentleigh Market Street Stall. Join the We Are Union team to speak with the local Bentleigh community about Napthine's cuts to emergency services.
[Read more](#)

Monday, 14 July – Phone Bank. Support the campaign and speak to union members in Victoria about the campaign and the issues that matter to them.
[Read more](#)

Wednesday, 16 July – Monbulk Train Station. If you're keen you can join the campaign team to speak to commuters in Monbulk about the emergency services crisis in Monbulk.
[Read more](#)

Thursday, 17 July – Monbulk Street Stall. Join local paramedics, firefighters and volunteers to talk with the local Monbulk community about Napthin's cuts to emergency services.
[Read more](#)

Saturday, 19 July – Doorknocking in Bentleigh. The campaign team is heading to Bentleigh to knock on doors and talk with residents about the issues that matter to them.
[Read more](#)

Volunteer at: <http://www.weareunion.org.au/volunteer>

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.



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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