



8 August 2014

Stat Report 2014/26

Drastic reduction in pathology services proposed for regional Victoria

The Medical Scientists Association of Victoria has significant concerns about the ongoing quality of health care for regional Victorians after St John of God announced a proposal to close pathology services in public hospitals in four regional centres in Victoria.

Paul Elliott, MSAV assistant secretary, said:

“We are not convinced by assurances from St John of God that they will continue to offer a safe and reliable pathology service when they’re proposing to close down four laboratories in public hospitals and sack medical scientists.

“Pathology is a vital tool used in our public hospitals for around 85% of all patient clinical diagnosis and to assess how treatments are progressing.

“It’s completely wrong for St John of God to say they can continue to offer safe and reliable pathology services when tests won’t be done on site and will be sent to other locations. This will inevitably mean it will take a lot longer for results to tests to be reported.

“When you take out the scientists and close pathology laboratories, you can’t in good faith claim, as St John of God is that pathology services will continue to be world-class.

“There are many instances where even a small delay in getting test results and determining a diagnosis can have profound impacts on outcomes for patients.

“The truth of the matter is that health care for regional Victorians will be greatly diminished because they won’t have access to speedy and reliable results to pathology tests. Some of the hospitals concerned have warned that they will be forced to shut down key services like A&E and obstetrics.

“It’s also wrong of St John of God to claim that urgent testing can be done with equipment in wards. It is well-known that they are unreliable and only perform a very limited range of tests. These machines are absolutely no substitute for the properly staffed and resourced pathology laboratory.

“Unfortunately this is another perfect example of how Government cuts to health and the contracting out of pathology services are hurting local communities.

“This decision highlights how the model of privatising critical health services like pathology doesn’t work. A model that allows business interests to be put before the health care interests of whole communities is obviously wrong and needs to be changed.

“It’s time for the Victorian Government to stop playing games and properly invest in healthcare to make sure Victorians can get the care they need when they need it,” concluded Mr Elliott

What's happening with Direct Debits?

Over the last couple of months the Union has been working on rolling out a new database.

As with all projects of this nature and size there have been some teething issues. Unfortunately this has meant that our usual processing of direct debit payments near the first of the month did not occur for August and were processed later than usual.

We do apologise to any members inconvenienced by this glitch. We have been working on resolving this and do not expect this will be a problem next month.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact the Union on 96923 9623.

The Real Story about our Professions



The We Are Union campaign wants to make sure that Victorian voters get the real stories from workers about what's at stake if the Napthine Government is returned in this year's election.

The Union has a great opportunity to contribute to these stories and we want to make sure our stories and voices are included.

If you're interested in contributing your real story about how the Napthine Government is making your working life more difficult and damaging our healthcare system please contact Alex Schlotzer on 9623 9623 or at alexs@msav.org.au

HSUA #4 Branch Election Report

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

Below are the results of the election for the Branch Committee of Management offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 and the rules of the organisation.

Branch President

Candidates
COWEY, Maxwell Wallace

Branch Senior Vice-President

Candidates
REGINATO, Victor

Branch Junior Vice-President (Psychologist)

Candidates
BLEESER, Jacinta

Branch Secretary

Candidates
ELLIOTT, Paul

Branch Assistant Secretary

Candidates
KELLY, Rosemary

Trustee (Psychologist)

Candidates

EDWARDS, Stephen

Trustee (MSAV)

Candidates
WELLS, Peter

Committee Member (Psychologist)

Candidates
CHAPMAN, Megan

Committee Member (Pharmacist) (2)

Candidates
KING, Julie
O'CONNOR, Shaun

Committee Member (MSAV) (3)

Candidates
BISIGNANO, Maria
DURKIN, Catherine
FELEPPA, Sandra

National Council Delegate (3)

Candidates
ELLIOTT, Paul
KELLY, Rosmary
REGINATO, Victor

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.

Jeff Webb
Returning Officer
Australian Electoral Commission

VPA Annual General Meeting and Professional Development

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

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

Save the Date: Wednesday 17 September from 12.30pm for the next Professional Development session and the VPA Annual General Meeting.

To register your interest for the VPA PD and AGM please contact Alex at alexs@msav.org.au

No Pay? No Way!

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



OR



Training for Job Reps: Campaigning Skills & Enforcing our Agreements

The next Job Reps training session will be held on **Friday 26 September from 10am to 3pm**.

The training session will cover the basics of organising and campaigning, using the “*No Pay? No Way!*” campaign. The training session will also go through the process for identifying breaches of our Agreements and the ways in which the Union can enforce our Agreements.

This training session will suit all Job Reps, whether new or experienced.

Job Reps in the Public Sector 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 are a Job Rep in the Private Sector please contact us as not all Private Sector agreements allow for paid leave for Union training.

If you are attending the Job Reps training make sure that you apply for leave now.

To register for the Job Reps training, please contact the Union on 9623 9623 or email alexs@msav.org.au to register your attendance.

Victorian Trades Hall Council Statement on Gaza

The Victorian Trades Hall Council Executive meeting on Friday 25 July unanimously passed this resolution, proposed by Kevin Bracken (Maritime Union of Australia, Victoria Branch).

That this meeting of the Victorian Trades Hall Executive:

- Condemns Israel’s latest horrific assault on the people of Palestine, which has resulted in over 600 deaths in the past three weeks – the overwhelming majority of the dead being civilians, and many of them children.
- We reiterate previous policy supporting a strategy of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against the state of Israel, similar to actions designed to isolate the former Apartheid regime of South Africa.
- We support the peaceful community protests called in solidarity with the people of Palestine, to be held on Saturday 26 July at 1pm, and Friday 1 August at 5pm, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne.
- We urge affiliates to support these protests through attendance, publicity, and other means.

Background to this statement: On 7 July 2014, following a severe escalation in hostilities involving intense Israeli aerial and navy bombardment and Palestinian rocket firing, the Israeli Government launched a full-scale military offensive against the Gaza Strip, titled Operation ‘Protective Edge’.

Worth Reading: “Employers could exploit unemployed on unpaid work experience, unions say”

Stricter rules are needed to stop private businesses exploiting unemployed people doing unpaid work experience now the scheme is linked to the Abbott government’s mandatory work-for-the-dole requirements, the union movement argues.

The new draft tender for the outsourced jobs placement system – worth \$5.1bn over the next three years and released last week – states that “jobseekers will be able to participate in up to four weeks of unpaid work experience at any point while they are unemployed, including as part of their work-for-the-dole activity”

Read the full article by Lenore Taylor in The Guardian at:
<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/aug/06/employers-could-exploit-unemployed-unpaid-work-experience-unions>

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](#)



Get Active! Help change Victoria!

[Here's what's happening in the campaign this week:](#)

Saturday, 9 August – Monbulk Doorknocking Blitz

[Volunteer for this now.](#)

Saturday, 9 August –

Geelong AFL leafleting. We Are Union volunteers will be visiting the mighty Geelong Cats to inform footy goers about the jobs crisis in Geelong. After a short stint of leafleting we will retire to a nearby pub to watch the football, have a couple of drinks and catch up in a social setting.

[Volunteer for this now.](#)

Monday, 11 August – Phone Bank. We're aiming to call 500 union members in marginal seats across Victoria, to speak with them about their key issues in this Victorian State Election year. You don't need any experience; we provide full training, plus pizza dinner!

[Volunteer for this now.](#)

Tuesday, 12 August – Kananook & Frankston Stations Leafleting. Join Paramedics, Firefighters and Nurses at Frankston & Kananook stations leafleting and talking to local commuters about the Emergency Services and Health crisis in Victoria!

[Volunteer for this now.](#)

Wednesday, 13 August – Phone Bank. We're aiming to call 500 union members in marginal seats across Victoria, to speak with them about their key issues in this Victorian State Election year. You don't need any experience; we provide full training, plus pizza dinner!

[Volunteer for this now.](#)

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

Benefits for Union Members

As a union member, you can take advantage of the collective

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.



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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