



10 October 2014

## Stat Report 2014/35

### 50 Days until Victoria elects its next government

Our movement is about everyday working people with busy lives, who nonetheless come together when it matters.

It matters now.

On November 29, Victoria goes to the polls. You might not hear as much about state politics, but don't think for a second that the Victorian Liberals aren't just as dangerous as Tony Abbott.

Under Denis Napthine, we've seen:

- Draconian laws to crack down on peaceful protest – the “Silencing Act”
- Cuts to health and education
- Unprecedented advertising campaigns vilifying our hard-working firefighters and paramedics
- Cuts to public sector jobs, inaction on our struggling private industries, and even sending jobs on public projects overseas

All the while, Napthine has been backing Tony Abbott's cruel budget that targets the most vulnerable.

In response, Victorian unions are running a massive grassroots campaign in the 6 seats that will most likely win or lose the state election. We're not running candidates – we're just asking the community to put the Liberals last!

Firefighters, paramedics, teachers and nurses have been taking the real story of Napthine's cuts to the community, but they need our support and our stories too.

Can you support the campaign against the Liberals? Sign up to help out in [Monbulk](#) or [Bellarine](#) on 18 October, or [Bentleigh & Mordialloc](#) on 26 October.

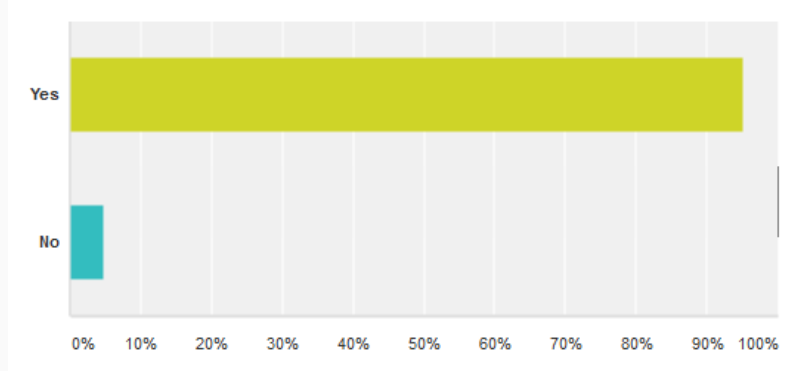
This is our chance to show the Liberals we're angry, we're organised, and we're coming for you.

[Sign up and help knock off this anti-worker first-term Liberal Government!](#)

### No Pay? No Way! Survey

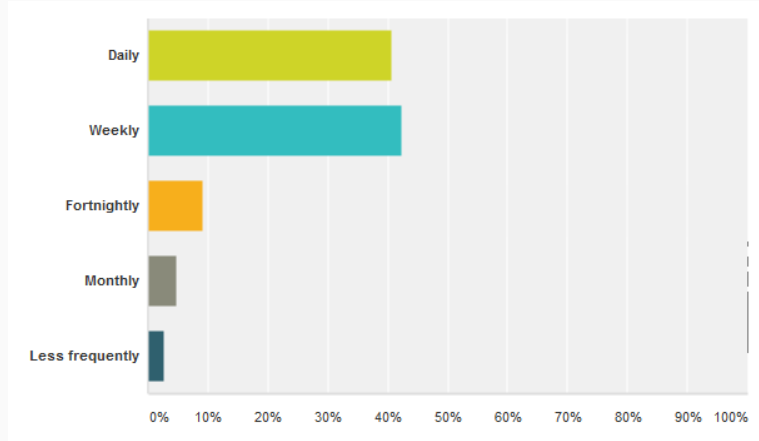
Last week we launched the “No Pay? No Way!” Survey and so far, in just one week, we have received very significant information through these questions:

### Have you performed unpaid work in past 12 months?



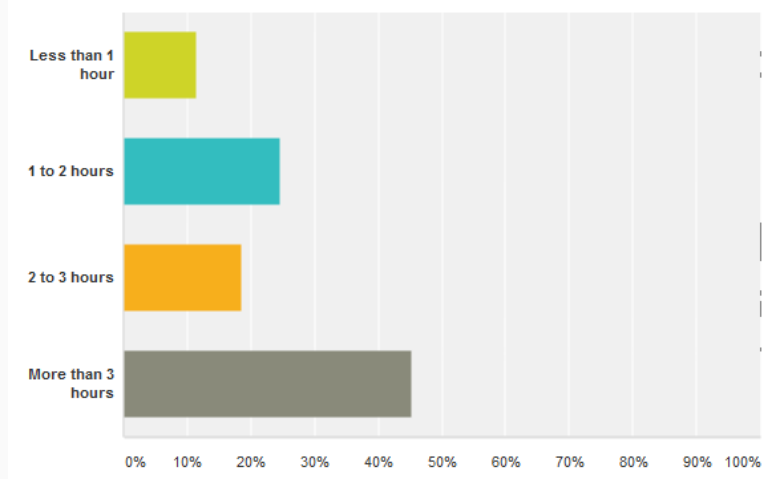
Over 95% of respondents to date said “Yes” they have performed unpaid work in the past 12 months.

### How often do you do unpaid work?



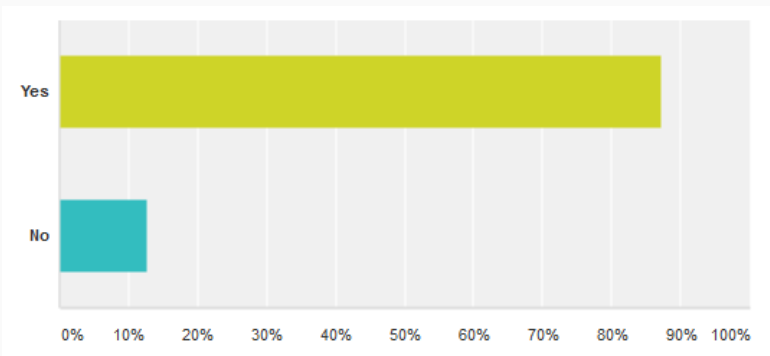
More than 40% and 42% of respondents to date are doing unpaid work on a daily and weekly basis respectively.

### How much unpaid work would you normally perform on average per fortnight?



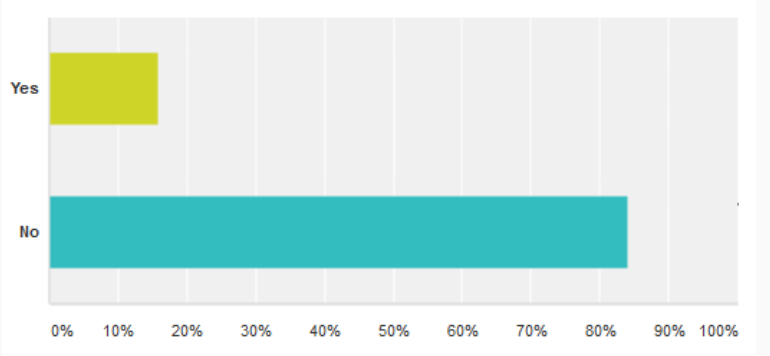
To-date more than 45% of respondents have indicated they are doing more than 3 hours of unpaid work on average per fortnight.

### Has your workload increased over the last 12 to 24 months?



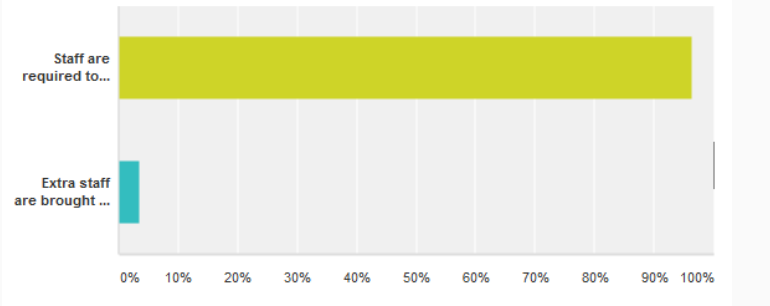
More than 85% of respondents to-date have indicated that their workloads have increased over the last 12 to 24 months.

**Are there sufficient staff to cover the workload when staff take annual leave or sick leave?**



84% of respondents to-date have indicated that there aren't sufficient staff to cover workloads when staff take annual leave or sick leave.

**What happens if unplanned absences (eg sick leave) occur?**



To-date 96% of respondents indicated that when staff take unplanned absences, like sick leave, the remaining staff are required to pick up the extra work.

This is vital information that will help us continue to build up our campaign for more staff and reduced workloads.

But we need more information to strengthen our arguments. That's why it's so important that you participate in the survey and let us know how unpaid work is impacting on you.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L73NLQP>

Show your support for the campaign by downloading & using one of our graphics for

your email signature.



OR



## Research shows thousands of employees not getting Superannuation Guarantee

New research from Tria Partners has found that employer non-payment of the Superannuation Guarantee (SG) affects around 650,000 Australian workers, leaving them out of pocket collectively to the tune of almost \$2.5 billion annually.

The research found that the average person affected loses around \$3,750 per annum in superannuation, or around 9 months' worth of super for someone on average weekly earnings.

The loss of super impacts more heavily on younger and lower-income Australians. For a 25 year old, a one-off loss of this magnitude could equate to a loss of \$13,500 at retirement in today's dollars. Those in more vulnerable circumstances, industries or employment modes may endure multiple losses throughout their working life.

By law, your employer is required to pay 9.5 per cent of your salary into your superannuation account, and at least quarterly. The deadline for the next quarterly payment is October 28, so if you have any doubts about whether or not your super is being paid correctly, contact your fund in early November, who will be able to let you know the timing and amount of your recent super payments.

The key message: Check your super account(s) frequently and advise either your employer or the ATO if payments are incorrect or missing.

### ***Did you know that you should advise your Super Fund about who you want to receive the money payable by the Fund if you die***

Many people do not realise that they need to advise their super fund to whom they want to have their superannuation death benefit paid. This nomination is separate from your will. You need to advise your super fund in writing about to whom you want to distribute your super (plus any insurance payable by your super fund). There beneficiaries are restricted by law to your dependents including your spouse or de facto spouse (regardless of gender); your children or your spouse's children; a person who the trustee of the fund considers was financially dependent on you at the date of death.

If you have not made a binding nomination, the Trustee of the Fund will decide which beneficiaries to pay the benefits to.

This information is provided as a general guide only and should not be relied on as advice – you should seek advice and information from your own superannuation fund about nominating your beneficiaries.

Further information is available from HESTA and First State Super:

<http://www.hesta.com.au/Media/docs/5053-Binding-death-benefit-nomination-form-09-14-57302e8f-fb5e-4e15-bc6f-4c24c2c7e432-4.PDF>

[http://www.firststatesuper.com.au/tmp/M3%2019\\_NomBenClaimDeathBen\\_Jun14%20v1.pdf](http://www.firststatesuper.com.au/tmp/M3%2019_NomBenClaimDeathBen_Jun14%20v1.pdf)

## Share your story and stand up to the Napthine Government



It's clear every worker has been let down by the Napthine Government.

But union members just like you are standing up to the government by sharing their experiences about what budget cuts mean to them and Victoria.

Be a part of the We Are Union campaign to highlight workers' voices this election. Share your story at:

[http://www.therealstory.org.au/share\\_story](http://www.therealstory.org.au/share_story)

## Worth Reading: "Casual workers back on the union agenda"

On World Day for Decent Work today [7 October], the ACTU has announced it will be using the current review of Modern Awards to embed a mechanism to convert casuals to permanency in all Awards for all types of workers.

The move, which has been attacked by employer groups, picks up on one of the key concerns about the casualisation of the workforce identified by the national inquiry into insecure work headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe in 2012.

ACTU President Ged Kearney said it was unfair that many casuals work regular shifts and rosters but miss out on important entitlements like sick leave and annual leave.

**Read the entire article by Mark Phillips at Working Life:**

<http://workinglife.org.au/2014/10/07/casual-workers-back-on-the-union-agenda/>

## Worth Reading: "Indecent Haste: The Rush To Erode Our Freedoms"

Last week, Federal parliament passed the first of three security bills granting the domestic intelligence agency ASIO power to access limitless networks of computers, and immunity to commit crimes during undercover investigations.

Anyone, including a journalist, who makes public disclosures about ASIO's activities undercover 'Special Operations' can be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

The government has provided ASIO with an extra \$198 million to smooth its integration, with overseas partner agencies such as the US National Security Agency, Australia's international intelligence agency ASIS and operations outsourced to private contractors and other 'affiliates.'

The bill was passed with minor amendments with the support of the Joint Committee into Security and Intelligence, which includes only LNP and Labor MPs. Significantly, two other committees which each includes a Greens MP identified problems with the same legislation.

Since 2011, the Human Rights Committee reports to parliament about the way in which proposed laws are compatible with human rights. It found that the ASIO bill was not presented in a way that enabled it to do its job. Its report on the bill criticised the "selective and generalised statements" used to describe how the bill intrudes on citizens' rights. and

found that Attorney General George Brandis “fundamentally misapprehends the purpose for which such statements are required.”

**Read the entire article by Wendy Bacon in New Matilda at:**

<https://newmatilda.com/2014/10/07/indecent-haste-rush-erode-our-freedoms>

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## 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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