



## Stat Report 2014/39

### Pharmacy and Northern Health

Earlier this year, there was a widely reported issue at the Northern Hospital involving the usage of medicinal cannabis as part of the treatment of a young boy with quite severe disabilities.

The cannabis was neither prescribed nor dispensed by clinicians at the Northern.

A media circus occurred at the time, with stories being run in the Herald-Sun, on TV and in other media. Police became involved – the issue was brought directly to the attention of the Chief Commissioner – and a major public debate was stirred, with most of the debate being political in nature.

In amongst this, a member of ours was summoned to disciplinary proceedings. Northern Health's management felt "unable" to wait to see the outcome of any police investigation and insisted on bringing the matter to a head. Our member was put under an enormous amount of pressure with the hospital conducting multiple layers of investigations but ultimately our member was left stuck in the middle.

The AHP sprung to our member's defence, ensuring the best possible representation at a time when the Hospital was lashing out in all directions. As a result of our intervention, our member was able to get through the process with career intact and the outcome minimised.

If not a union member, this person would have been on their own, fighting expensive legal battles out of their own pocket, and lacking good strategic advice. It pays to be a union member.

# National Mental Health Commission findings to be released

The Australian Government has asked the National Mental Health Commission to conduct the 2014 National Review of Existing Mental Health Programmes and Services across the country. Many members made submissions to the review in March and April of this year and we await the final report to government, due prior the 30th November.

The VPA has been concerned for sometime about the reductions of public mental health services because we know that mental health is an issue for everyone in our community. We are particularly interested in how the Commission addresses issue of access and availability and will consider a response to the report on its release.

You can learn more about the Mental Health Commission and its work at [www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au).

## Better Path Plan

Pathology is a key scientific service in delivering Victorians world-class health care.

It is complex pathology science that doctors and specialists rely on to make a diagnosis and to find treatments. Pathology is vital to help make sure that the treatment your doctor or specialist has prescribed is actually working. It's also the medical scientists in pathology that cross-match blood for life-saving transfusions.

It's pretty simple to work out – No Medical Scientists = No Diagnosis + No Treatment

At every turn the Victorian Government has cut funding to the health system with little regard for the actual workforce needs of Victoria's health sector. And with the increasing attacks on budgets, and efforts by hospital managements to do more with less, more medical scientists are walking away.

Join the Union and call on all candidates at this year's State Election to sign our Better Path Plan pledge to show their commitment to having world class healthcare underpinned by strong, public pathology services.

**TAKE ACTION: Make sure our Better Path Plan is on the agenda for the State Election – send your email today: <http://msav.org.au/news-mainmenu-2/latest-news/1920-the-better-path-plan>**

## The Christmas close down period and you

It has come to our attention that a number of employers are already trying to coerce members into taking annual leave to cover their close down periods.

It is very clear from our public sector Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and most of our private sector agreements that there is no capacity for your employer to force you to take annual leave or long service leave for this purpose.

It is not acceptable for your employer to make arrangements about close down periods under the assumption that staff will be required to use annual leave or long service leave to cover it.

**Remember: there is no requirement for anyone to agree to take annual leave or long service leave to cover regular working days over the Christmas and New Year period.**

**Contact the Union for assistance if you need further advice.**

## Association of Hospital Pharmacists Committee Vacancy

A vacancy currently exists for a committee member of the AHP committee of management. The AHP is calling for nominations from AHP members who are interested in joining the committee and become directly involved in the important work of representing hospital pharmacists and managing the affairs of the AHP.

Interested AHP members should contact Victor Reginato or Paul Elliott in the Carlton Office.

## Join the campaign - No Pay? No Way!

**Show your support for the campaign by downloading & using one of our graphics for your email signature.**



## Go Home On Time Day

Do you find yourself working back late to do just one more thing, check one more email? Never enough hours in the day to do all the things you need or want to do? Feel stressed that you're behind in your workload? Are work calls or emails getting in the way of enjoying free time?

National Go Home on Time Day is an initiative of The Australia Institute to start a serious conversation about the impact of poor work/life balance on our health, relationships and workplaces. The Day gives unions an opportunity to highlight the huge amount of unpaid overtime Australians work each year.

Life doesn't need to revolve around work. Go Home on Time Day is your chance to win back some work/life balance.

More than a decade after then Prime Minister, John Howard, declared work-life balance to be a barbecue-stopper, overwork still presents a massive imposition on the personal and social wellbeing of many Australians.

It's really easy to get involved in Go Home on Time Day and everyone can do it - when your shift at work is over you go home.

This year Go Home on Time Day will be celebrated on 19 November. Mark it in your calendar and start discussing it with your colleagues.

Find out more at <http://www.gohomeontimeday.org.au>.

## 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)

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# 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](#)

## We Are Union - Get Active! Help change Victoria!

### Saturday 8 November

Monbulk Mini Blitz: [Click for Details](#)

Ocean Grove Blitz: [Click for Details](#)

Chelsea and Bonbeach Blitz: [Click for Details](#)

Frankston mini-doorknock and street stall: [Click for Details](#)

### Monday 10 November

Carrum Station hand-out: [Click for Details](#)

Trades Hall phone bank: [Click for Details](#)

### Tuesday 11 November

Frankston & Kananook train station leafleting: [Click for Details](#)

Cheltenham train station leafleting: [Click for Details](#)

### Wednesday 12 November

Trades Hall phone bank: [Click for Details](#)

### Thursday 13 November

Edithvale train station leafleting: [Click for Details](#)

Bellarine phone bank at Geelong Trades Hall: [Click for Details](#)

## 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.



## 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.

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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Authorised by Paul Elliott, Executive Officer, Level 1, 62 Lygon St, Carlton South. Medical Scientists Association (03) 9623 9623 Association of Hospital Pharmacists (03) 9623 9624 Victorian Psychologists Association Inc (03) 9623 9625 Fax (03) 9663 8109 Email [enquiry@msav.org.au](mailto:enquiry@msav.org.au) A.B.N. 30 345 343 541 (MSAV), 72 520 393 213 (AHP), 87 851 818 075 (VPA Inc).

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