



Stat Report 2015/06

No Pay? No Way! Meetings

The Union has been meeting with members at workplaces across Victoria. We've been speaking with members about the *No Pay? No Way!* campaign and the excessive workloads being regularly reported to the Union. It was also a major element highlighted in the survey conducted last year.

At each health service the Union has been visiting, workloads and the demands on staff to undertake more and more unpaid work are key issues for members. And as we discuss workloads and the growth in unpaid work, it is also becoming evident many members are feeling the physical and emotional burden of excessive workloads.

In this environment of excessive workloads and longer working hours, it is easy for members to be put at greater risk of suffering workplace injuries or long periods of illness, further compounding workload and staffing issues.

The Union is visiting workplaces to discuss workloads, the explosion in unpaid work, and how we can tackle this growing problem together.

Here are the upcoming visits – keep an eye out on your inbox for reminders.

March 3 – Peter Mac

March 5 – St Vincent's Hospital

March 9 – Northern Health

March 10 – Latrobe Regional Hospital

March 16 – Eastern Health

March 25 – Goulburn Valley Health

International Women's Day

On March 8 we'll be joining with unions and other civil society organisations to celebrate International Women's Day.

International Women's Day is the official day of the year when people around the world come together across physical and cultural divides to celebrate the rights of women and girls. And as

2015 takes shape it seems there is a lot of work to be done in Australia.

The Union is disappointed that the Minister for Women continues to ignore his responsibilities.

In fact we've seen recently just how badly the Minister for Women is prepared to treat women as the government bullied and harassed Professor Gillian Triggs for simply doing her job and speaking out against abuses committed in our name.

And International Women's Day is particularly important to highlight that the gender wage gap continues to widen with the gap now at 18.8%, a jump of 1.4% since November 2013.

You can show your support for International Women's Day by joining the rally on 8 March at 1pm at the State Library in Melbourne.

Super clinics and psychologists

Super clinics are often touted as the answer to all of our suburban health care needs. But as they've become more prevalent there are some big questions starting to be raised about the quality of care they can provide and their methods of 'employing' health professionals, especially psychologists.

The Union is very interested in exploring the growth of super clinics and their methods of 'employing' psychologists. Members are raising with the Union the following issues:

- Psychologists working in super clinics don't have clients
- Contracts prevent psychologists from taking clients with them and attempt to prevent psychologists undertaking their professional work for up to 18 months after leaving these
- Super clinics dictate appointments and scheduling
- Psychologists unable to advertise for clients
- Questions remain over referrals to psychologists
- Questions remain over the use of Medicare provider numbers by clinics
- Methods of payments and how clients are billed

If you're working in super clinics we'd like to hear more about your working conditions and the issues you're facing.

Get in touch with VPA at 03 9623 9625 or at enquiry@vicpsych.org.au

A year after ARCBS became a manufacturer

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service's one-year anniversary since becoming a 'manufacturer' is coming up in April.

We know that in that time there has been a great deal of change; a great deal of anxiety; and a great deal of concerns about the safety of the blood supply. We have been receiving reports that the Blood Service continues to employ non-scientists to undertake testing of blood products; and we know that the Blood Service has been delivering incorrect blood products to hospitals. We have also been receiving reports that blood products are also being delivered outside of the required timeframes.

And worst of all, we're receiving reports that when our members raise such concerns with the Blood Service, instead of addressing them, the Blood Service proceeds to ring management of hospitals to complain about our members. This is on top of a report from late last year that the Blood Service had been caught out attempting to sack an employee for simply letting colleagues know about their union's pay deal negotiations (The Age: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/red-cross-threatens-to-sack-union-delegate-for-sending-pay-deal-email-20141013-1146da.html>)

For an organisation that continues to promote itself as a humanitarian organisation, it is doing a lot to prove this to be false. Perhaps it should spend its budget on employing scientists so the community can be assured their blood donations are properly tested and processed, instead of advertising agencies (<http://mumbrella.com.au/australian-red-cross-blood-service-hands-creative-account-cummins-partners-275912>).

None of this is new, especially to members at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. But it is particularly troubling that the very concerns about the safety of testing and processing by people with merely an interest in blood, which our members raised at the time, continue to be problems.

Do you have any information?

In the lead up to the first year anniversary of the Red Cross Blood Service being a so-called manufacturer, we're calling on all members to share with us their experiences of the Blood Service in the last year.

Annual Conference 2015 – Save the date

After the success of last year's Annual Conference, the Union will be holding an Annual Conference in 2015. The Union is working on the theme and lining up some great guest speakers.

We're sure that this year's Annual Conference will be huge!

So make sure you save the date – Friday 29 May – for Annual Conference

More details will be published in future editions of STAT Report.

Join the campaign – No Pay? No Way!

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



Fight for our Rights – National Day of Action

Our rights at work are again under attack from the Abbott Government and employers.

It's time to stand up and fight back is now! We're going to be march against this government's attempts to destroy our living standards by:

- cutting wages, conditions and our rights at work,
- slashing Medicare and hiking up the cost to see a doctor,
- introducing \$100,000 university degrees,
- cutting the ABC and our public services,
- cutting the pension and superannuation,
- implementing harsh changes to unemployment benefits, and
- cutting community services that support our most vulnerable.

On March 4 join us and thousands of others in Melbourne to stand up for our rights at work. The Union will have a contingent at the rally and will be meeting out the front of the Union's offices at 62 L'vonn Street Carlton

We can't stand by while the Abbott Government destroys our living standards.

Make sure you tell your friends, family and co-workers to join us. The bigger the crowd, the louder and stronger the message we send.

Rally Details

When: 4 March at 10am to 12pm

Where: Victorian Trades Hall

Sign up at: <http://www.weareunion.org.au/fight4rights>



Worth Reading: Tax break for rich worst public policy since white Australia

“Tax breaks in superannuation for the rich is the worst piece of public policy since ‘white Australia’, Garry Weaven pioneer of industry funds said at Conexus Financial’s 18th annual Investment Administration Conference.

Addressing over 200 superannuation professional Weaven spoke on how most countries view Australia’s system as close to perfection, but despite this significant changes needs to take place to make it sustainable.”

Read the entire article by Dan Purves in Investment Magazine at:

http://investmentmagazine.com.au/2015/02/tax-break-for-rich-worst-public-policy-since-white-australia/?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=IAC_19022015

Worth Reading: In any area, Australian women are getting a much worse deal than men

The ABS’s six-monthly compendium of gender indicators released this week reveals an Australia quite starkly divided along gender line. It’s a nation where women are paid less for the work they do, do more unpaid work, are denied seats at the heads of the largest corporations, are more stressed and are greater victims of harassment.

Looking at data on gender always has me rather wanting to avert my eyes. For a male over 40.

who has been the beneficiary of the male patriarchy probably more than I care to admit, it's a tad disconcerting to be confronted with figures that confirm the position of privilege that is being a male in Australian society. As a father of two daughters it is also rather dispiriting to look at the slow pace with which society is changing on gender equality.

Read the entire article by Greg Jericho in The Guardian at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/grogonomics/2015/feb/27/in-any-area-australian-women-are-getting-a-much-worse-deal-than-men>

Worth Reading: Gender pay gap in Australia rises slightly to 18.8%, ABS data show

The wage gap between men and women has increased slightly, as the government announces plans to water down gender reporting requirements for businesses.

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Thursday show that the wage gap has jumped by 1.4% to 18.8% since November 2013.

The gap increased 0.7% since the last time figures were collected in May 2014.

Men in full-time employment earn an average of \$1,587.40 a week, the ABS figures show, whereas women earn an average of \$298.10 less.

Read the entire article by Shalailah Medhora in The Guardian at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/feb/26/gender-pay-gap-in-australia-rises-slightly-to-188-abs-data-show>

Worth Reading: The rising costs of the great Australia dream

“ONE of my regular neighbourhood walks takes me past a fine example of Queen Anne architecture. The elegant family home has three sculptural red-brick chimney stacks towering from its multi-gabled roof, its ridge lines capped with decorative terracotta ornaments. A fretwork verandah frames the generous curve of a bay window that greets the street. The house is well maintained, but its charms have begun to look slightly faded in recent years. The paint on the woodwork is no longer fresh and a front garden that was once cared for now looks as if it is simply maintained.

“Mary,” who owns the house, is in her late eighties and has lived there alone since the death of her husband several years ago. In popular parlance, she is the archetypal little old lady rattling around in the old family home. In the language of public policy and economics, Mary is an “overconsumer” of housing and her choice of dwelling is “inefficient.” By living in a residence that could comfortably accommodate a family, Mary is contributing to the “underutilisation” of Australian housing. Put another way, she is helping to reduce supply and inflate prices.”

Read the entire article by Peter Mares in Inside Story at: <http://insidestory.org.au/the-rising-costs-of-the-great-australian-dream>

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