



## Stat Report 2015/11

### Union appears before Senate Select Committee on Health

On Thursday the Union appeared before the Senate Select Committee on Health. It was incredibly rewarding to be able to share our concerns about hospital funding, workforce planning, pathology and the National Blood Authority.

The Committee was very interested in our views about workforce planning, especially in light of our work around the extent of unpaid work; increases in workloads and the tendency for management to cut services in less visible areas like pathology, pharmacies and in mental health.

It was also an excellent opportunity to highlight our ongoing concerns about the hospital and health funding and the flow impacts that funding cuts have on health services.

The Committee has requested additional information and submissions from us which we are in the process of compiling.

The Committee will continue its schedule of hearings and is due to report back to the Parliament on 20 June next year.

### Professional Development Seminar for VPA Members

The VPA is holding its next Professional Development seminar on **Wednesday 13 May 2015, at the Treacy Centre Parkville**. For venue information click [here](#).

The afternoon will begin at 12:30pm with light refreshments before the first session commences at 1pm.

**The topic for the Professional Development seminar is “What every psychologists can do to help clients with substance abuse issues”, which will be presented by Dr Nigel Alexander from 1pm.**

Dr Nigel Alexander is a Clinical Psychologist who works with the Substance Use Mental Illness Treatment Team (SUMITT) from NorthWestern Mental Health. SUMITT is also part of the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative. Nigel has worked in the AOD treatment sector for the last fifteen years and also runs a private psychology practice.

**Seminar Title:**

What Every Psychologist Can Do to Help Client with Substance Use Issues

**Seminar Abstract:**

Alcohol and Other Drug Use is common in our society. Not everyone who uses substances experiences problems, however significant numbers of people do. Approximately 50% of people suffering from a mental disorder also have a co-occurring substance use disorder. Despite this the rates of screening and assessment for substance use problems in health services are low, and interventions provided are even lower.

This workshop will discuss the substances of concern in our community and what treatment options are available. Participants will be introduced to a screening tool to assist them in ascertaining if their clients have a substance use issue and learn how to provide a brief intervention.

**Seminar Program:**

| Time             | Program        |
|------------------|----------------|
| 12:30pm to 1pm   | Light Lunch    |
| 1pm to 2:30pm    | First Session  |
| 2:30pm to 2:45pm | Afternoon Tea  |
| 2:45pm to 4pm    | Second Session |
| 4pm to 4:20pm    | Plenary        |

**Make sure you save your place by sending us your RSVP by 5pm on 6 May to [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au).**

Note that sessions times may vary slightly upon confirmation. If you have any questions regarding this Seminar please contact VPA Inc on 9623 9625.

## What happened to ANZAC Day?

You might have started wondering what happened to ANZAC Day this year. We've certainly heard a lot of fanfare about it with this year being the centenary. But you'll have probably discovered that ANZAC Day falls on a Saturday this year and there is no substitute day.

But what does this mean to you?

If you work full-time Monday to Friday: You are entitled to receive one and half day's pay in addition to the weekly wage or one and half days off at a time convenient to the Employer without loss of pay in lieu.

If you are a full-time shift worker and are not required to work on Easter Sunday you are entitled to receive one and half day's pay in addition to the weekly wage, or one and half days off at a time convenient to the Employer without loss of pay in lieu.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact the Union on 9623 9623

## Easter payments proving too difficult for health services to understand

Unfortunately it seems that many so-called HR and payroll professionals in Victoria's health services appear to lack the necessary comprehension skills needed to perform their jobs. This is the only conclusion we can come up with as members across Victoria are reporting health services refusing to pay Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday entitlements, contrary to the advice their own industrial advisers have given them.

Make no mistake these are your entitlements and will continue to fight for them being given to you.

We are pursuing each health service to ensure our members are paid their entitlements. The Union is also with the Victorian Health Industry Association to ensure they're advising health services about their obligations to pay your Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday entitlements.

If your health service is refusing to pay your Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday entitlements please get in touch with the Union on 9623 9623.

## Annual Conference 2015

The Union's Annual Conference is happening on 29 May at the DownTowner on Lygon.

Annual Conference 2015 promises to be as big as last year with the theme being "No Pay? No Way!". Our agenda for the day is shaping up to be an interesting day exploring many of the issues that matter to us – workloads, protecting our professions, enforcing our agreements and protecting our rights at work.

And to ensure that we continue to hold Government to account we have invited the new Victorian Minister for Health, Ms Jill Hennessy to attend as our key note speaker.

**Save the date – Friday 29 May – for Annual Conference**

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

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



## Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA 2015 Raffle

Support the Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA Raffle and stand with workers around the world fighting for justice and safe and decent work.

[Buy your tickets online](#) or FREECALL 1800 888 674 today.

Don't miss out on your chance to win an \$8000 travel voucher or a great Gazelle Ultimate T-1 bicycle valued at \$2,199. Tickets only \$2. Booksellers' prizes also available.

*The Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA 2015 Raffle is kindly sponsored by Turner Freeman Lawyers.*

## Worth Reading: Unions Call For An End To Shadowy Trans-Pacific Partnership Talks

"The Australian Council of Trade Unions, backed by the International Trade Union Confederation, has today reiterated its calls for the federal government to cease negotiations over the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership."

The US-led trade deal is being negotiated in secret by 12 countries, and could result in higher medical prices and allow corporations to sue governments for policy designed to protect the public, if it hurts their profits.

Tobacco giant Phillip Morris is already suing the Australian government under the provisions of a 1993 free trade deal known as the 'Hong Kong Agreement', and critics say that such lawsuits could extend to environmental, copyright and workplace laws if the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) goes ahead."

Read the entire article by Thom Mitchell in New Matilda at:

<https://newmatilda.com/2015/04/16/unions-call-end-shadowy-trans-pacific-partnership-talks>

## Worth Reading: AMA's 'bleak' outlook for hospitals strengthens premiers' case on funding

"An Australian Medical Association report showing the nation's public hospitals face a funding "black hole" because of the federal government's cuts gives premiers strong ammunition for their Friday meeting with Tony Abbott.

AMA chief Brian Owler, who on Thursday launches the AMA Public Hospital Report Card 2015, said that despite some small improvements "the public hospital system is not meeting the clinical demands being placed on it".

Read the entire article by Michelle Grattan in The Conversation at:

<http://theconversation.com/amas-bleak-outlook-for-hospitals-strengthens-premiers-case-on-funding-40241>

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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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