



Stat Report 2016/19

Australian Clinical Labs and St John of God

Australian Clinical Labs (Crescent Capital Partners) recently featured in the Geelong Advertiser as news of their buying up St John of God's became more widespread. Unfortunately, St John of God and Australian Clinical Labs have not been up-front with the community about the prospect of job losses and the impact this will have on health services offered through St John of God.

It was remarkable to read the claims by St John of God and Clinical Labs that there wouldn't be job losses to then have to come clean after the Union blew the whistle on the deal involving up to 200 job losses. While Clinical Labs has committed to offering jobs to all but 8 current St John of God staff it is clear that Clinical Labs intends to cut as many as 200 jobs as soon as 12 months after taking over St John of God operations. Clinical Labs is yet to clarify what changes could possibly justify this level of cuts, particularly given that St John of God has recently implemented very significant operational changes that have cut the pathology workforce to the 'bone'.

The biggest fear is that Clinical Labs is planning to adopt the Dorevitch playbook by transferring testing out of the Barwon and other regional public sector laboratories to its central laboratory in Melbourne. This strategy of centralising testing is always used to justify job cuts, and always results in pathology quality standards being seriously reduced.

We are hearing the same rhetoric from St John of God and Clinical Labs as we've heard from other health services and Dorevitch that pathology quality standards will be maintained. Despite such promises in the past, there is a clear strategy with contracted pathology services to reduce operating costs through cutting jobs, primarily, and by making savings in other areas of expenditure.

The undeniable truth of this pathology model is that jobs are lost and quality, especially through turnaround times, is significantly reduced.

The jobs that are foreshadowed to be cut are not jobs that Clinical Labs 'owns' after its acquisition of St John of God. These are effectively public health sector jobs that should not be treated as a commodity to be bought and discarded in the interests of increasing profit or 'equity'.

The MSAV is maintaining its pressure to get answers from St John of God and Clinical Labs. Just as importantly we are taking our concerns to the State Government and the board of Barwon Health, both of which have an absolute responsibility to protect local jobs and maintain pathology quality standards. It is essential that the current pathology services contract standards are rigidly enforced to ensure the pathology service for Barwon Health, and the greater Geelong community, is delivered at the quality standards necessary to ensure health care standards are not compromised.

This issue is especially important as the decision by St John of God isn't one that impacts just one hospital. The sale of St John of God also has massive implications for all public health services in north central and western Victoria in which St John of God current has pathology services contracts.

To make our case even stronger we will need your help.

You can help raise concerns about the future of 200 jobs and local pathology services within the Barwon Health and other public health services by contacting your local Member of Parliament and members of the Barwon Health board.

Get details on how you can help raise concerns about the future of public pathology at:
<http://msav.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/160715-SJoG-Pathology-Call-your-MP.pdf>

Save the Date: VPA Inc. PD – 14 September

The Victorian Psychologists Association Inc will hold a professional development seminar on 14 September so make sure you save the date in your diary. The VPA Inc will also hold its Annual General Meeting on the same day.

More information about the PD session will be included in future editions of STAT Report but in the meantime save the date – 14 September.

St Vincent's Employee Connect

If you're working at St Vincent's you will know that they've set up a new system for notifying management that you will be absent due to illness, carer's leave or compassionate leave.

Now let's be clear up front; we do not necessarily have a problem with a central number to ring to notify St Vincent's that you will be absent from work. However St Vincent's want to invade your privacy by asking you to reveal the nature of your illness.

You do NOT have to provide this information to St Vincent's Health. Do not be fooled by the 'genuine concern' of the so-called nurse on the end of the line. You should also know that the 'nurse' is not employed by St Vincent's Health and is actually employed by a contractor and is working from a call centre in Sydney.

We have now discovered that far from "always maintaining privacy and confidentiality" the kindly so-called nursing professional who offers "support" is recording information about the nature of a person's illness when they disclose it – and is passing this information on to managers.

Our advice to members is no matter what pressure you are put under to disclose the nature of your personal illness, just stick to advising that you will be absent from work due to illness and do not give any other information to the "nursing professional" who answers the phone. They are not there to help you!

Remember you may be required to provide evidence of your illness when you return to work but you are NOT required to disclose the nature of your illness. Evidence can be a certificate from your treating health practitioner or by way of statutory declaration and neither of which require disclosure of the nature of your illness or injury. Note: you are entitled to 3 single day absences without having to provide proof of illness.

If you need medical assistance contact your regular GP, clinic or health care provider or attend the nearest accident and emergency department.

Shortly after this new notification system was put in place some members were told that they had to call Employee Connect and their supervisor/manager. St Vincent's has advised the Union that this is not compulsory, and that you only need to ring Employee Connect, who will in turn advise your supervisor/manager.

If you have any questions or concerns call the Union on 9623 9623 or at enquiry@msav.org.au

Monash Health and Easter Entitlements

It's been a long time since we celebrated Easter but the Union is still dealing with Monash Health

and their refusal to adhere to the Union's agreement.

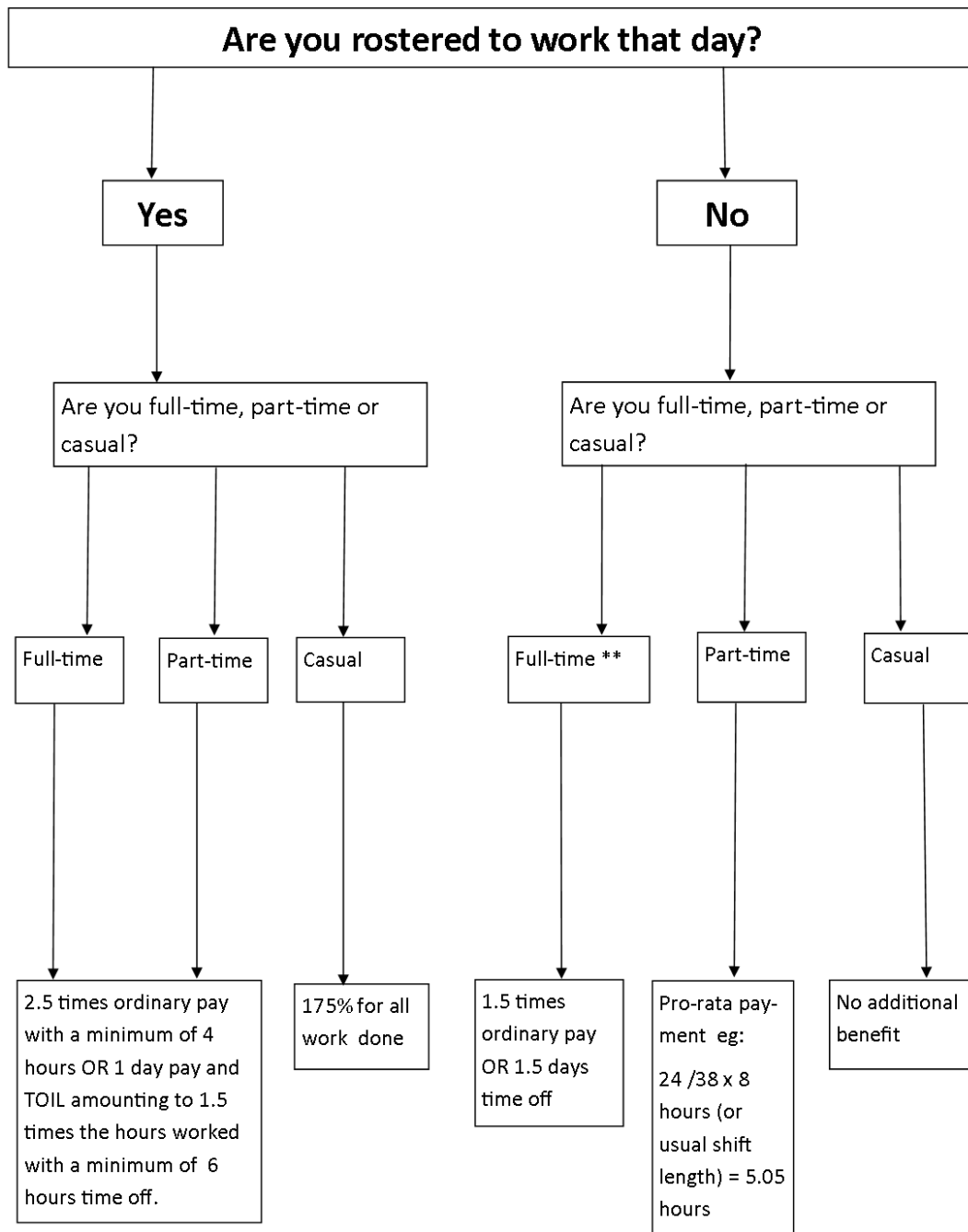
Unfortunately we're continuing to receive reports that part-time staff are still to receive outstanding Easter Holiday payments. We're uncertain how this situation has been allowed to continue given our agreement hasn't changed and the same clause has been in place for a number of years. And especially in light of our regular contact with Monash Health over Easter Holiday payments for members.

Please notify the Union on 9623 9623 immediately if you're a part-time staff member and have not received the correct payment for the Easter period.

And just be sure here is our handy guide on your Easter entitlements



PUBLIC HOLIDAY PAYMENTS



** For Easter Saturday: 1 days ordinary pay or where mutual consent, within 4 weeks following the date on which the Public Holiday occurred the employee may take a day in lieu or 1 day added to their annual leave.

Meeting Members for Public Sector Bargaining

Over the next month the Union will be visiting workplaces across Victoria to discuss the claim the Union will be lodging when negotiations commence next month. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the specific claims the Union will be making and the sort of issues we're likely to confront as we begin negotiations.

We will send out notices about meetings and reminders so that you can join us when we're visiting your workplace.

Bargaining at Monash IVF and Melbourne IVF

Unfortunately at the moment there is no agreement in place at Monash IVF.

That's why the Union is currently working on a first enterprise bargaining agreement for embryologists, geneticists, research scientists and IVF counsellors employed at Monash IVF. The Monash IVF counsellors include registered psychologists. As negotiations continue the Union will be regularly meeting with members to provide updates.

The Union renegotiated the scientists' agreement with Melbourne IVF earlier this year and we are about to start the negotiations to renew the Melbourne IVF counsellors' agreement.

The Union will be contact with members at Monash IVF and Melbourne IVF about negotiations and to discuss claims.

NAIDOC Night at Victorian Trades Hall

Join us in the now-famous CFMEU Loading Bay at Victorian Trades Hall to celebrate this year's NAIDOC Week on 19 July.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. It is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

This event includes music performances from local artists as well as food and drink. Entry by donation with all money raised donated to Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (FVPLS).

Event Details

When: 19 July from 6pm

Where: Victorian Trades Hall – 54 Victoria St, Carlton South

RSVP at: http://www.weareunion.org.au/naidoc_event

Mental Health in Australia - Where we are, how we got here, and where we need to go

"Mental health reform remains in a tenuous state in Australia. Reforms like the National Disability Insurance Scheme; Primary Health Networks; Health Care Home; and, the Digital Gateway for mental health all have the potential to transform support for people who experience mental illness.

But if mental health reform is to be understood, we must also understand the factors that contribute to that reform."

Join Mr Frank Quinlan, CEO of Mental Health Australia as he addresses the 17th International Mental Health Conference, being held in just 4 weeks' time on the Gold Coast.

Frank will join a line-up of exceptional keynote speakers plus over 75 session speakers as they address the issues confronting those that work in and those that live with mental health in Australia and abroad.

This is your chance to have your voice heard and discuss issues with leaders in the field.

For more information or to view the Conference Program, please visit the website.

Registration is available online at: <http://anzmh.asn.au/conference/registration/>

Support the Healthy Futures campaign



The Union strongly believes that climate change is union business. We know that climate change threatens our health by increasing the risks of heatwaves, bushfires, droughts and storms, displacing people and straining our health systems.

And right now HESTA and First State Super (FSS), Australia's biggest health industry super funds, are investing our money in fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas.

Join us in asking HESTA and FSS to divest from fossil fuels at www.healthyfutures.net.au/divest.

Worth Reading: Overcharged for hearing aids? Australia's audiology industry isn't rogue, but needs improvement

"Since last year, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has been [watching the audiology industry](#) in light of claims "rogue" practitioners are overcharging for hearing aids. This week, further [reports have emerged](#) about alleged rorting in the "unregulated" industry, with some patients reportedly spending up to A\$17,000 for hearing aids.

Parts of the audiology environment is government-regulated, such as in the case of services for children up to the age of 26 and pensioners with a Health Care Card. But many with hearing impairment fall through the cracks and rely on the self-regulation of the industry."

Read the entire article by Robert Cowan in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/overcharged-for-hearing-aids-australias-audiology-industry-isnt-rogue-but-needs-improvement-61850>

Worth Reading: Did Turnbull Just Torpedo The TPP?

"One thing that is certain after Saturday's election, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is dead, and along with it the Coalition's economic agenda and narrative. The free trade agreements that Andrew Robb signed with China, Korea, and Japan were some of Tony Abbott's proudest achievements, yet they are exactly the sort of deals that Pauline Hanson, Nick Xenophon, and Jacqui Lambie believe cost Australian manufacturing workers jobs.

And thanks to Malcolm Turnbull's new Senate voting rules and double dissolution election, Hanson, Xenophon, and Lambie are now the block of votes that the Coalition will need to win over to pass their legislation when the ALP and Greens are opposed.

The National Party will feel the pain most acutely. Described by some as the big winners last night, the Nationals have always struggled in head to head policy debates with the likes of Hanson. While the Nationals have always been willing to sign trade deals that hurt manufacturing in exchange for helping beef or sugar producers, Hanson has been less sanguine about throwing blue collar workers under the bus in the interests of big agri-business."

Read the entire article by Richard Dennis in New Matilda at: <https://newmatilda.com/2016/07/05/turnbull-may-have-just-torpedoed-the-tpp/>

Worth Read: Election 2016: what will a re-elected Coalition government mean for key policy areas?

"Labor leader Bill Shorten on Sunday conceded the 2016 election to Malcolm Turnbull, though it

remains uncertain whether the Coalition will form a majority or minority government."

Read the entire piece in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/election-2016-what-will-a-re-elected-coalition-government-mean-for-key-policy-areas-62170>

Join the Union

Are your workloads increasing? Are your stress levels increasing? Are you doing longer hours at work? Join the Union for work pain relief!

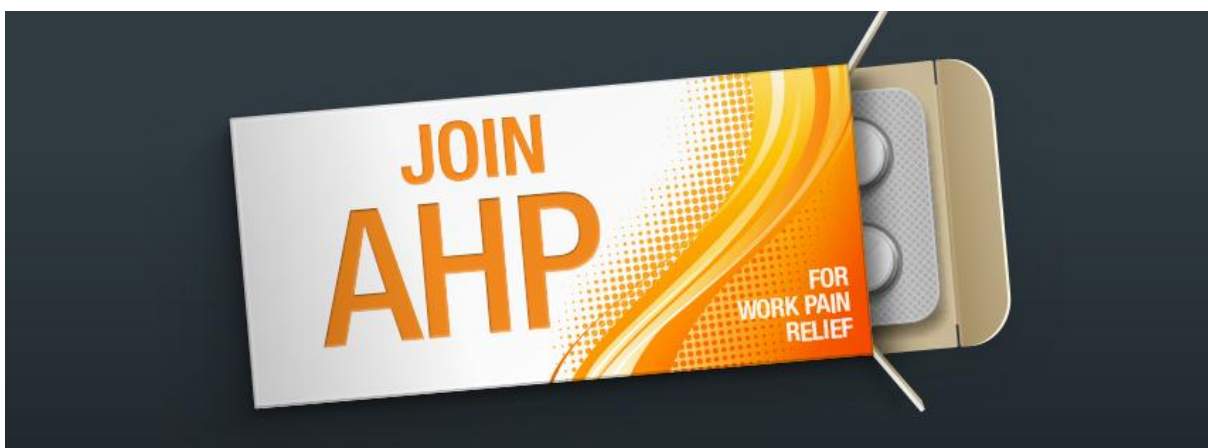
To protect our professions and stand up for our rights at work we must strengthen our collective voice and strengthen our bargaining position by increasing our membership. And you can help right now by sharing one of the images below through Facebook.



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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](#)



Get the most out of the Union's website

The Union's website has a number of special features for members. These features, like the Members section and the Forums, require you to have a log-in and password.

But to ensure that your privacy is protected we have created the website in such a way that you will need a separate log-in and password for the Members section and the Forums section. It might seem to be inconvenient but it does better protect you and your private information. It also means that we can be more certain about the source of a hack if such an event is ever to arise.

Australian Unions Member Benefits app

Over the last month Australian Unions launched some new and exclusive Member Benefits - did you see our recent email telling you about this? If not, check your inbox! Search for "Lifestyle Rewards" for your login code.

Our program has expanded to include:

- Discounted movie tickets for Village, Hoyts, Palace and Event cinemas.
- Discounted electronic gift cards including major theme parks, zoos and aquariums.
- A discounted accommodation booking site.
- A new secure member only website and smart phone app.

All this is free to all members of affiliated unions. If you have not got a login and would like join in [register for Member Benefits now.](#)



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