



Stat Report 2017/14

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Bendigo Health and the future of its microbiology lab

Australian Clinical Labs is trashing the critical microbiology laboratory at Bendigo Health to pursue larger profits. It has to stop – that’s why we’re asking you to call the local Bendigo Members of Parliament and the Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy. [Check out our guide to calling Members of Parliament about microbiology at Bendigo Health here.](#)

If you haven’t heard, Australian Clinical Labs is making further cuts to the scientific workforce at Bendigo Health by closing the microbiology pathology laboratory. As you know these cuts will further add to the declining standard of healthcare offered as pathology services are cut back and moved out of Bendigo Health.

Please join in solidarity with members at Bendigo Health and [call the local Members of Parliament and Jill Hennessy, Minister for Health](#) to tell them to keep the microbiology laboratory in Bendigo to protect patient safety.

Downgrading of microbiology pathology at Bendigo Health means patient safety is put at risk. With every scientist position lost, fewer clinical services can be delivered at Bendigo Health. It’s particularly concerning that the State Government is letting this happen after spending \$630 million on building a brand new Bendigo Hospital.

It’s up to us to keep the pressure on the Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy and local Bendigo Members of Parliament to ensure that the microbiology pathology laboratory isn’t closed and patient safety remains a top priority. [Please make your voice heard and call the local Bendigo MPs and Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy today.](#)

Together we can take a stand to restore the microbiology pathology laboratory at Bendigo Health. [Check out our guide to calling Members of Parliament about microbiology at Bendigo Health here.](#) And below are the contact details for local Members of Parliament and the Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy:

Member and Electorate	Electorate Phone Number	Other Phone Number
Jill Hennessy (State Minister for Health)	(03) 9395 0221	(03) 9096 8561

Maree Edwards (Bendigo West)	(03) 5444 4125	
Jacinta Allan (Bendigo East)	(03) 5443 2144	(03) 8392 6100
Jaclyn Symes (Northern Victoria Region)	(03) 5783 2000	

Check out some of the recent media:

- [Medical staff group joins calls to reverse pathology changes](#)
- [Government to review safety at hospital](#)
- [Lab closure 'ludicrous', doctors say](#)
- [Bendigo Health to lose microbiology lab](#)

Update on Public Sector bargaining

Despite much of the work being completed the Union is still waiting to have the draft agreement considered by the government and approved to be put out to vote.

While it's incredibly frustrating that we are still waiting, the good news is that we're closer to getting the agreement finalised. It also means that it won't be long before we'll be asking you to vote for the new agreement but we will make sure a detailed explanation of all of the changes in the new agreement is distributed.

Until then, we're keen to continue to share with members the details of the agreement and what we've been negotiating. Please get in touch with us and let us know when it's a good time to meet with members in your workplace by calling 9623 9623 or via email at enquiry@msav.org.au

Sick leave and your responsibility

Sick leave is an important right for which unions and working people fought long and hard.

The Union's agreements enshrine your right to sick leave and it's absolutely essential for you to understand what your entitlement is to sick leave. In our agreement sick leave is referred to as personal leave.

Every full time and part time employee is entitled to sick leave. You can access sick leave when you're absent from work due to a personal illness or injury; or if you have to care for an immediate family or household member who is sick; or in case of medical emergencies.

But it is your responsibility to make sure you contact your workplace if you're going to be away from work. And it is your responsibility to make sure you have appropriate evidence to support your claim for personal leave.

It's definitely not your responsibility to find your own replacement if you're on a roster. In the public sector and most other agreements, if you weren't able to get a medical certificate from your health practitioner, you can present a statutory declaration which your health service can't refuse to accept it..

You also don't have to submit to any visits or tests by health practitioners organised by your health service; you only need to have consulted your health practitioner. In fact, if you're approached to undertake a test or to visit your health service's nominated health practitioner you should flatly refuse without any adverse outcomes. If you are subjected to any threats of disciplinary action you need to contact the Union as soon as possible.

Sick leave is an important leave entitlement to ensure that you are able to take the time needed to recover from injury and illness; or to care for family. We've fought long and hard to win it, so make sure you're using it.

Final call to be a Climate Health Champion

Become a climate health champion!

As health professionals, we see the devastating effects of climate change on our community every day.

We are on the front lines of worsening extreme weather events, the increased spread of infectious diseases, and declining food and water security.

That's why health professionals across Australia are joining the Our Climate, Our Health campaign, calling on the Federal Government to act on climate change now.

We are looking for health professionals who want to help lead this effort by becoming Climate Health Champions.

We have an opportunity for 25 health professionals to attend a three-day Climate-Health Campaigning and Advocacy residential workshop.

THE PROGRAM

This education program is delivered by expert trainers and campaigners, and will provide you with the skills and knowledge you need to:

- Understand the effects of climate change on health and wellbeing,
- Use your experiences as a health professional to compel others to take action
- Build and grow a community campaign for climate action
- Identify and develop leadership in others
- Develop core advocacy and lobbying skills
- Build relationships and a supportive network

PARTICIPANTS

We are looking for people who are passionate about change, willing to develop skills to become an effective change agent, and want to be part of leading an effective movement for climate action.

Fri 16 – Sun 18 June

The workshop will be held in a beautiful setting on the edge of Melbourne at **Edmund Rice Centre, Lower Plenty, Victoria**

All costs covered (including travel and accommodation for interstate attendees).



Our voices are trusted and respected in the community — that is why we must speak up.

Contact your organisation to apply or find out more, or visit www.ourclimate-ourhealth.org.au



Supporting organisations



Want to be a MSAV, VPA Inc or AHP Climate Health Champion? Send your expression of interest TODAY at: <https://goo.gl/forms/5BJwztvOu8PTHpph2>

Support Family Violence Leave for all workers

Survivors have suffered for too long behind closed doors. We all have a part to play in ending violence: it's time that employers played theirs. Tell employers that everyone has the right to paid days away from work if they are subjected to family violence.

Make your voice heard: <http://bit.ly/FDVLLeave>

Stopping Gendered Violence at Work

Far too often women are attacked, harassed and threatened in their workplaces. And it needs to stop. That's why the Union is fighting back against gendered violence in the workplace – it's a very serious occupational health and safety issue.

Gendered violence is like a disease in our workplaces. Working women's experience of violence at work indicates that the problem of gendered violence is endemic in our workplaces.

Sign up to support the campaign at: <http://www.unionwomen.org.au/stopgv>

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.

Do you need access to Domestic Violence services?

If you're experiencing domestic violence and need help, here is a list of Victorian services which may be able to assist you.

[Safe Steps \(formerly Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria\)](#)

[Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria \(FVPLS\)](#)

[Centre Against Sexual Assault \(CASA\) Forum](#)

[Community Legal Centres](#)

[Court Network](#)

[Domestic Violence Victoria](#)

[Elder Rights Advocacy \(ERA\)](#)

[Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service](#)

[inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence](#)

[Men's Referral Service](#)

[No To Violence](#)

[QLife Australia](#)

[Seniors Rights Victoria \(SRV\)](#)

[The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence](#)

[Victoria Legal Aid \(VLA\)](#)

[Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency](#)

[Women with Disabilities Victoria \(WDV\)](#)

[Women's Housing Ltd](#)

[Women's Information Referral Exchange \(WIRE\)](#)

[Women's Legal Service](#)

[Women's refuges](#)

Worth Reading: The NHMRC program grant overhaul: will it change the medical research landscape in Australia?

"Medical research in Australia is facing some unprecedented challenges. Investment in the National and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has been flat for years and since 2011, the number of funded research projects has [dramatically decreased](#). Only [15% of projects](#) are funded, despite many more ranking as highly suitable for funding.

Australian medical researchers are under intense pressure to find research funds for salary support and to [continue their research](#). This has a significant impact on the quality of the research performed in Australia. Many medical researchers spend several months a year writing unsuccessful grant proposals because of the highly competitive funding environment.

Researchers should be conducting life-saving research. The uncertainty of funding has a serious negative impact on the [most vulnerable](#) in the sector including early- and mid-career researchers, women, and those facing career interruptions due to maternity leave or disabilities."

Read the entire article by Gaetan Burgio in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/the-nhmrc-program-grant-overhaul-will-it-change-the-medical-research-landscape-in-australia-78343>

Worth Reading: Explainer: what is positive psychology and how can you use it for yourself?

"Many people have probably heard the term "positive psychology", but know little about what it means in practice. Positive psychology aims to find ways to make life better for people, and ensure they're the most mentally healthy person they can be.

Officially established in 1998, positive psychology is a relative new field. It has quickly become popular among [researchers](#), and blogs about happiness and well-being are now commonplace.

Positive psychology suggests that getting rid of sickness, disability, depression, crime and the other problems of life is important, but not enough. People should be able to not just survive life, but to thrive and enjoy it. Positive interventions are being brought into [schools](#) and [workplaces](#) to help people feel good and be more productive."

Read the entire article by Peggy Kern in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/explainer-what-is-positive-psychology-and-how-can-you-use-it-for-yourself-75635>

Worth Reading: 1967 was a moment when it seemed easier to tell the truth. We need another such moment

"I was three at the time, so I don't remember any of it, but the impacts on my life are profound. 27 May 1967 is widely understood as the day Australia stood as a nation almost unanimously in support of Aboriginal people and their right to be citizens of this country. In fact, never at any other time in this country's history have we seen such an overwhelmingly positive feeling toward Australia's First Peoples. 90.77% voted yes in support of Aboriginal people being included in the national census and to allow the federal government to make laws that included Aboriginal people.

Thinking back to this unprecedented moment in our recent history, I wonder at the perpetual state of delusion the nation seems to live under – in a constant state of denial, having to create fabricated stories of the past, hoping to push down the ever-present guilt and shame of past deeds, always on the defence.

But every now and then we have a moment, a split second, in which it just seems so much easier to tell the truth, to be honest, even though it's uncomfortable, even though it's shameful. But this

moment passes, and the cloud of delusion returns and the opportunity is gone."

Read the entire article by Rachael Maza in The Guardian at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/may/27/1967-was-a-moment-when-it-seemed-easier-to-tell-the-truth-we-need-another-such-moment>

Worth Reading: The Food Loss Bank

"There are momentous challenges ahead for successfully feeding the growing world population. About 795 million people are undernourished, while more than two billion people are overweight or obese. Forecasts predict that by 2050, nine billion people will need to be fed in an environmentally and nutritionally sustainable way.

If we are to meet food and nutritional needs in a world where natural resources are diminishing, we'll need to combine strategies such as reducing food demand, increasing food production, all while maintaining sustainability. Food processing also plays a major role in food and nutritional security. Not only will we need to reduce production losses during processing, but we'll also need to increase nutritional content, shelf life, and environmental sustainability.

In the meantime, each year approximately 1.6 billion tonnes of food is not even consumed by humans—it is used for other processes such as composting or ends up as landfill. As it travels from farm to retail, food is lost during production, harvest, post-harvest handling, storage, distribution and food processing. And once food reaches the consumer, massive amounts are wasted. But much of this lost or wasted food is potentially edible biomass, in other words an energy source for humans, which could be diverted back into the global human food supply."

Read the entire article by Jesse Hawley in the CSIRO Blog at: <https://blog.csiro.au/food-loss-bank/>

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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