



Stat Report 2018/13

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Why medical bills must be an election issue

If you were watching the ABC's Four Corners you will have seen a deeper than usual report into the escalating medical bills Australians are facing. It's an issue we've been highlighting for a number of years. And it's been a major issue ever since the Coalition came to power, first under Abbott and now under Turnbull; the government has hit Australians hard with ever increasing healthcare costs by freezing Medicare rebates for a range of services even though charges are increasing.

At the last federal election the issue of rising healthcare costs was quite damaging to the Coalition, especially given the fact they had chosen to freeze Medicare rebates on vital things like pathology tests and diagnostic imaging. It meant that hundreds of thousands of Australians saw out-of-pocket expenses skyrocket and as illustrated in the Four Corners report the out-of-pocket expenses are still increasing.

What was largely ignored by the Four Corners report was the ever increasing gap payments people are making around pathology testing. Testing as you know is an absolutely vital part in the diagnosis and treatment of people requiring medical care. Without the testing it's not possible to pinpoint the exact cause of someone's health complaint or how to best treat it. And with the federal government continuing the rebate freeze on testing, it is adding thousands of dollars to people's healthcare costs. Despite the government announcing in this year's federal budget the unfreezing of rebates for diagnostic imaging, Australians will still be forced to pay ever larger gap fees for pathology tests.

And with stagnant wages, growing inequality at work, and ever increasing living costs, more and

more Australians are finding themselves making tough decisions about whether they should seek medical assistance or pay the rent/mortgage and bills. These are decisions Australians should not be forced to make in such a rich country like ours. But instead of recognising the skyrocketing out-of-pocket costs for healthcare the federal government has entrenched higher costs for Australians every time they need to get a pathology test done.

When the next federal election comes around, it's vital that we make it about healthcare costs and ensuring that every Australian, regardless of their capacity to pay, is able to access pathology tests when they need it. The federal government cannot continue to back cuts to company taxes while it allows ordinary Australians who pay their taxes to be left struggling with escalating costs in accessing quality healthcare.

In the meantime we will continue lobbying for change and making sure we continue to deliver the best outcomes for you, our members.

Paul Elliott
Secretary

Bargaining Update

Community Sector Members' Meeting

A meeting (via teleconference) of members of the MSAV/VPA/AHP working in the community health sector in Victoria will be held to discuss developments in the current community health sector enterprise agreement negotiations. Community health sector employers have put a formal offer that we want to discuss and decide our response.

We are at an important stage of the negotiations, and therefore your input is critical. The meeting will be held via teleconference, and the details are as follows:

When: Wednesday 13th June @ 2.00pm

Phone-in details

Phone No: 1800 896 323

Participant code: 19435868

Hopefully you can attend this meeting and to let us have your views and discuss how to progress negotiations into the future.

Dorevitch

Discussions in relation to the Dorevitch draft agreement has commenced but as has been flagged this discussion will take time as we go through multiple agreements line by line.

We have asked for an agreed operative date for any first wage increase and we are still waiting for Dorevitch's response.

Australian Clinical Labs

Enterprising bargaining is underway for a new agreement to cover all scientists and technicians at Australian Clinical Labs.

A big part of that work will be bringing together the former Healthscope and St John of God agreements to ensure that members do not lose conditions. Another obvious issue will be to ensure a decent pay rise for all members.

As a part of the process, we also think it is important to ask you directly what you think should go into the union's claim. A short survey is being conducted by the MSAV in conjunction with VAHPA who share coverage of technicians with us.

The link for the survey is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClinicalLabs2018>

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Additionally, members meetings will be held in larger sites over the coming weeks. Keep your

eye out for details.

In the meantime if you have any questions please contact Matt Hammond at 9623 9623 or via email at matth@msav.org.au



You and the flu vaccine

It's that time of year when the dreaded lurgy is doing the rounds. And it's also that time of year for lots of health services to make the flu vaccine available to staff. You should know that it is entirely up to you if you wish to take the flu vaccine. You can't be forced to take the flu vaccine regardless of any claims made by your employer.

However, if you feel it's something you should do and your employer is offering the opportunity to take the flu vaccine then you should feel free to take the vaccine.

If you've been told to take the flu vaccine and failure to do so will result in some kind of disciplinary action make sure you contact the Union on 9623 9623 or via email at enquiry@msav.org.au

Australia's workplace rules are broken. So let's change the rules!



Host a workplace meeting to build support for our campaign



New Financial Year and Invoices

It's nearly that time again when we have to start thinking about lodging tax returns – or least

finding someone to do it for us – with the end of financial year almost here. Over the next couple of weeks members who pay their membership via direct debit should find in their inbox their EOFY invoice letting you know how much you've paid in Union fees so you can claim it back when you lodge your tax return.

All other lump sum paying members have been issued receipts during the year as they've paid.

If you haven't seen your invoice in your inbox by the end of June make sure you contact us on 9623 9623.

Subscription Rates for 2018/19 Financial Year

MSAV

MSAV Subscription Rates for 2018/19 Financial Year

Full Time

Over 24 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$662.10

Per Month = \$55.18

Part Time

8 to 24 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$397.10

Per Month = \$33.09

Sessional

Less than 8 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$204.00

Per Month = \$17.00

Non Working

Parental leave, overseas, interstate, retired

Annual Sub = \$88.60

All prices include GST

Need more information?
Phone: 9623 9623
Email: enquiry@msav.org.au



AHP

AHP Subscription Rates for 2018/19 Financial Year

Full Time

Over 24 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$653.60

Per Month = \$54.47

Sessional

1 Day per week

Annual Sub = \$161.60

Per Month = \$13.47

Part Time

8 to 24 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$407.70

Per Month = \$33.98

Pre-Registration

Annual Sub = \$118.10

Non Working

Parental leave, overseas, interstate, retired

Annual Sub = \$88.60

All prices include GST

Need more information?
Phone: 9623 9624
Email: enquiry@msav.org.au



VPA Inc

VPA Inc Subscription Rates for 2018/19 Financial Year

Full Time

Over 24 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$662.10

Per Month = \$55.18

Part Time

8 to 24 hours per week

Annual Sub = \$397.10

Per Month = \$33.09

Non Working

Parental leave, overseas, interstate, retired

Annual Sub = \$88.60

Sessional

1 Day per week

Annual Sub = \$204.00

Per Month = \$17.00

Private Practice

Annual Sub = \$301.60

Per Month = \$25.13

Student

Annual Sub = \$33.40

All prices include GST

Need more information?
Phone: 9623 9625
Email: enquiry@msav.org.au



VPA Professional Development Seminar

[REGISTER TODAY FOR THE VPA INC. PD SEMINAR – 11 JULY](#)

The next Professional Development for VPA Inc. members will be held on 11 July at ANMF Education Centre in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Dr Pat Brown has been confirmed as the speaker for the Seminar. Dr Brown will speak about the interesting and amazing history of the Victorian Children's Court Clinic as its former Director. Dr Brown is both a clinical and forensic psychologist.

The afternoon will commence with registration at 1:30pm and the seminar starting at 2pm for a 4:30pm finish time. We will also provide afternoon tea.

Make sure you register to save your spot.

[REGISTER TODAY FOR THE VPA INC. PD SEMINAR – 11 JULY](#)

Positions not backfilled?

Let us know

Backfilling at Alfred Health

A couple of months ago the Union lodged a dispute with Alfred Health in relation to staffing levels in Haematology.

Through the course of the dispute it quickly became evident that there was 5.3 EFT worth of vacancies in Haematology due to factors like staff returning part time from maternity leave, resignations, and on other long term leave arrangements. Because of the new backfill provisions in the agreement, Alfred Health eventually accepted that these vacancies had to be filled immediately.

We have been advised that so far 4.8 EFT has been filled with the remainder currently being advertised. The Union will continue to monitor the situation so that the remaining EFT is also filled.

This is an excellent outcome and a great example of why it's vital that members inform us of vacant positions in their workplace. We would have not known about such a massive gap in staffing at Alfred without members informing us.

This dispute also illustrated that the new leave backfill provisions in Public Health Sector are very effective in addressing staffing and workload issues.

If you have positions that [haven't been backfilled or there are vacant positions in your workplace make sure you let us know](#) – it's entirely confidential and there is no identifying data used to follow up reports.

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

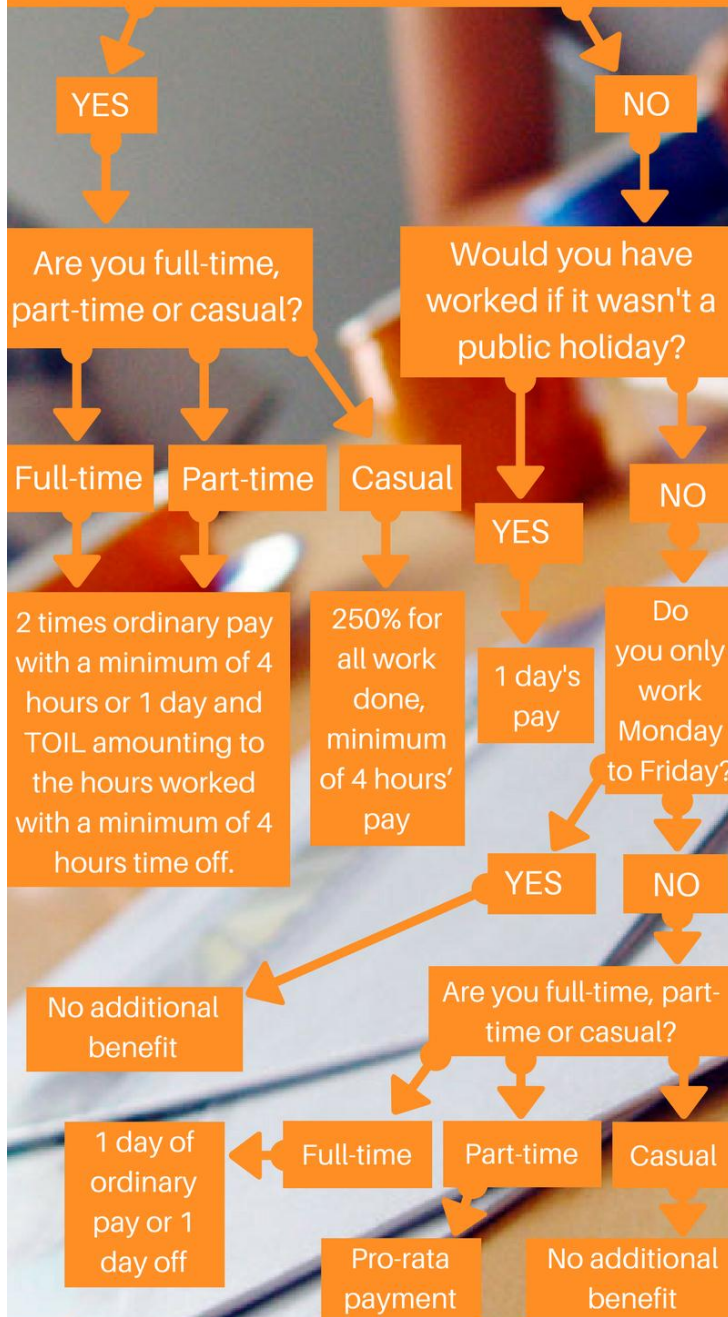
As many may know Monday 11 June is a public holiday which means it's another reason to make sure you know what to expect in your next pay packet. Use our infographic below to make sure you've been paid correctly for the public holiday.

Keep in mind that you might not see your pay for the public holiday until the first full pay period following the public holiday.

If you think you haven't been paid correctly make sure you contact the Union on 9623 9623 or at enquiry@msav.org.au

Public Holiday 2018 Payments

Did you work that day?



No Pay? No Way! 2018 Survey

The Union wants to be able to better understand the nature and extent of unpaid work, and more importantly, how unpaid work has changed and the impact it has on members over time. That's

why the Union is continuing with our “No Pay? No Way!” survey we started in 2014.

[Please take a few minutes to do our survey and help us continue to highlight the issues around unpaid work and its impact.](#)



10th Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium

The Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium will be held on Monday 15 – Wednesday 17 October 2018 at Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania.

Suicide and harm prevention, physical health, digital and low intensity mental health, child and youth, supporting the mental health workforce and consumer focused recovery are some of the topics that will be addressed at the Symposium.

You can get all of the details for the Symposium and how to submit an abstract by visiting <https://anzmh.asn.au/rrmh/>

Union Women Changing the Rules - 2018 Women's Conference

Participants will hear from a panel of union, legal and campaign experts about how, together, we can advance the safety and rights of working women. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Kara Keys, National Campaigns Director, ACTU.

There will be a diverse range of unions and women's community organisations there, but the conference is open to anyone who wants to change the rules for working women. Participants will also build organising, bargaining and campaign skills to make change within their own workplaces and organisations.

When: June 12, 2018 at 9:30 - 4pm (registration opens at 9:00)

Where: ANMF Building - 535 Elizabeth St Melbourne , VIC 3000

Catering: A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

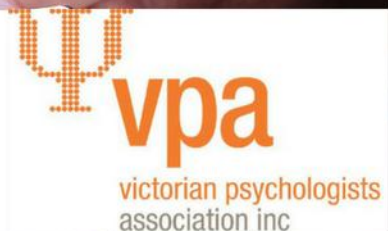
Make sure you RSVP by emailing us at: enquiry@msav.org.au

VPA Inc. PD Seminar

11 July 2018
1:30pm to 4:30pm

**ANMF Education
Centre,**
535 Elizabeth St,
Melbourne

**RSVP today:
enquiry@msav.org.au**



Authorised by RKelly, Secretary, VPA Inc. (w/ 1, 82 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053)

Psychologists: If you need help at work you need the VPA Inc.

If you are a psychologist and not in the VPA, you are taking unnecessary risks with your reputation and career. [Download an application form and join today.](#)

Common beaches of employment entitlements and negotiation of enterprise agreements

The VPA routinely assists members over issues such as harassment and bullying, under classification, organisational re-structuring, incorrect calculation of leave entitlements and health and safety. In addition, it negotiates enterprise agreements for psychologists in the public and private sectors to ensure that rates of pay and conditions remain up to date.

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.

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>

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: Remote village to metropolis: how globalisation spreads infectious diseases

"These days we can get from most remote villages [anywhere to home in 36 hours](#). And migrating humans can certainly carry microbial "passengers". This means the increasing globalisation of our world can give infectious diseases a good opportunity to spread.

In the age of exploration, introduced infections played a [major role in shaping human history](#). Although the origins of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic are hotly debated, the timing of its onset in Europe coincided with mass troop movements towards the end of the first world war. It probably came with [American troops](#) from Camp Funston in Kansas.

More recently, it's thought HIV/AIDS emerged early in the 20th century, but only in the 1960s did it spread along [transport routes](#) in Africa.

Developed countries, particularly those like Australia that are geographically isolated, often feel relatively protected from epidemics. But travellers have introduced cases of Ebola to the [US and Europe](#), brought SARS from Asia to [Canada](#), and MERS coronavirus from Saudi Arabia to [South Korea](#). Recent studies have highlighted the risk of [importation](#) of antibiotic-resistant bacteria from countries where resistance is more common."

Read the entire article by Allen Cheng in The Conversation at:

<https://theconversation.com/remote-village-to-metropolis-how-globalisation-spreads-infectious-diseases-92216>

Worth Reading: Climate change: a brief overview of the science and health impacts for Australia

"In 2017, The Lancet reported that "human symptoms of climate change are unequivocal and potentially irreversible — affecting the health of populations around the world today" and added that the "delayed response to climate change over the past 25 years has jeopardised human life and livelihoods".¹ The gravity of this situation warrants inspection, and urgent action. In this article, our aim is to provide an overview of the most recent scientific and organisational literature to inform readers about the current state of knowledge on climate change and its relationship to human health. The issue has global relevance, but here we focus primarily on Australia.

The ambient climate shapes cultural life, so the relationship between human societies and their climate is extremely powerful. Ecological services such as food and water resources, strategies required to feed a community throughout the year, clothing, and housing design are all determined by climate and its direct threats of heat, droughts, fires, storms and floods. Indeed, human survival and societal flourishing depend on successful adaptation to the proclivities of regional climate."

Read the entire article by Elizabeth Hanna and Lachlan McIver in the Medical Journal of Australia at: <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2018/208/7/climate-change-brief-overview-science-and-health-impacts-australia>

Worth Reading: Medical bills: How out-of-pocket costs can get out of control

"If you've seen a specialist in the private health sector, you'll likely know the pain of out-of-pocket or "gap" costs.

They're the fees charged by a medical specialist, minus the Medicare rebate and — if you have private health insurance — whatever your health fund is willing to cover.

What you pay varies greatly depending on who you see, which hospital you attend, and your policy and excess.

But the costs can be significant, and make people wonder why they bother with private health insurance in the first place."

Read the entire article by Olivia Willis on the ABC site at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2018-05-28/how-out-of-pocket-medical-costs-can-get-out-of-control/9592792>

Worth Reading: Australians should not be fooled by attacks on the ABC

"The ABC is an organisation known intimately to every Australian and about which every one of us has an opinion. The letters pages of newspapers contain a steady stream of bouquets and brickbats for the public broadcaster.

Yet according to pollsters, with about 80 per cent support, the ABC is the most trusted media

organisation in the country by a very wide margin.

It is one of the few organisations to maintain trust when confidence in institutions everywhere has declined."

Read the entire article by Justin Milne in the ABC at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-30/australians-should-not-be-fooled-by-attacks-on-abc/9815792?section=analysis>

Worth Reading: Aussies accents differ from Canadian, American, British and Kiwi. Here's why

"Why do Aussies have a different accent to Canadians, Americans, the British and New Zealanders? The answer, it seems, has a lot to do with who you hang out with as a kid.

The accent you have depends on the people you grew up with and the history of the place that you live in.

If you grew up in Australia, your accent is shaped by the history of Australia's European settlement; if you grew up in New Zealand, your accent is shaped by a different history, so it sounds different."

Read the entire article by Felicity Cox in the ABC at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-30/aussies-accent-american-canadian-kiwi-british/9814746>

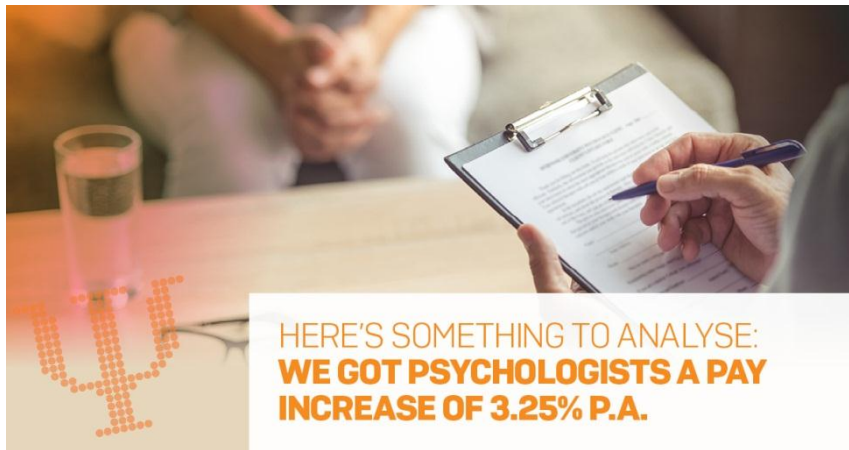
Join the Union

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

To protect our professions and stand up for our rights at work we must strengthen our collective voice by increasing our membership. You can help by sharing one of the images below on Facebook.



[Share on Facebook](#)



HERE'S SOMETHING TO ANALYSE:
**WE GOT PSYCHOLOGISTS A PAY
INCREASE OF 3.25% P.A.**

[Share on Facebook](#)



WE WON PHARMACISTS AN EASY
TO SWALLOW **3.25% PER YEAR
PAY INCREASE.**

[Share on Facebook](#)

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.](#)



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.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#)

Authorised by Paul Elliott, Secretary, 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 A.B.N. 30 345 343 541 (MSAV), 72 520 393 213 (AHP), 87 851 818 075 (VPA Inc).

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