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Frankston City Council EBA goes to a vote

The Australian Services Union will put Frankston City Council's EBA to a vote of the membership today. As it stands, ASU members have been less than happy with Council's lead negotiator Peter Blood, who is Council's ex-Organisation Development manager (Human Resources), now being paid as a consultant with ratepayers money.

Council have offered a 3.5% increase (or a flat dollar rate of \$35 per week), which will not bring Frankston employees' wages in line with similar Councils across the state, according to ASU Organiser Lita Gillies.

"For a long time, Frankston City Council has looked to other councils in the south east to compare wages, but it is about time they look outside their area and bring their employees wages in line with other councils," said Gillies.

"Also, Council's overuse of volunteers in the libraries and in the visitor centre has meant that Council are dependent on volunteers to ensure the library and the visitor centre runs effectively as a business. Council say they have a policy on the use of volunteers, but volunteers who carry out work at Council are exposed to the same risk of injury and stress that paid workers are exposed to. Some work, especially in the libraries, does carry a risk of injury. Volunteers are not covered by Workcover, so we believe Council could be putting volunteers at risk and are certainly taking advantage of the good nature of those Frankston residents who want to help their community," added Gillies.

"Another gripe from members is that the council have only increased maternity and paternity leave by one week, refusing to commit to the fact that any government maternity leave scheme will be treated separately to their current arrangements. The council may try to use any government maternity leave scheme to subsidise their own maternity leave provisions, which is not acceptable."

"The feeling among ASU members is that council have offered very little considering the demands it places on staff in regards to service standards and work ethic. It would be surprising if this offer is accepted. We expect that the members will vote to take some sort of protest action."

The EBA meeting will be held at 12pm today at The Brotherhood of St Laurence (24-27 High Street, Frankston) as no rooms of an appropriate size owned by Council were available.

-ENDS-

For further information:

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