

# THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTORATE a threat to **ALL** Council workers

## What you need to know about the LGI

In 1997, the Kennett government made changes to Section 223 of the Local Government Act (LG) which provided for the appointment of an inspector of municipal administration.

The current state government has now set up the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate (LGI).

Investigations into Port Phillip and Brimbank may be the reason for this.

The LGI can investigate 'any person' including council workers, family, friends or the general community.

Former Victoria Police Inspector David Wolf was appointed Chief Municipal Inspector, along with 10 other inspectors.

Inspectors are directly appointed by the Minister and are not subject to the Public Administration Act (which would have provided checks and balances).

Inspectors may examine or investigate anything relating to a Council's operations or electoral matters and any possible breaches of the LG Act.

Inspectors can ask **any person** to produce any document, give all assistance with an investigation, appear on oath, and answer questions. They can also take matters directly to the Supreme Court.

A person must not refuse a requirement of an inspector, give false or misleading information, or refuse to take an oath. Stiff penalties apply (see next column).

There are many similarities between the LGI and the Australian Building Construction Commission (ABCC). Both:

- Are headed and staffed by ex-police inspectors;
- Can force us to provide information and documents;
- Can force us to answer questions removing common law right to silence;
- Have maximum penalties of TWO years jail and heavy fines:
  - o LGI - \$11,600 (100 penalty units\*),
  - o ABCC - up to \$13,200.

*\* Plans to increase this to 240 penalty units, about \$28,000, before parliament*

**The LGI's powers are a threat to ALL workers and anyone connected to LG because they apply to any person.**

The LGI even interrogated a newspaper reporter during the recent Geelong City Council Steak Sandwich dispute using threats of jail and fines.

The ASU is particularly concerned with the removal of our most basic rights, such as the right to be treated equally before the law (Article 7 UN declaration of HR) and the right to silence.

The LG Minister claims there are protections for workers (there are none!) and has refused to change the laws.

The ASU will fully support our members, campaign to inform people of the laws and use our combined strength **to have the LGI abolished**

**NOTE:** The ASU reminds non-members that they will have to pay for their own private legal advice if they are contacted by the LGI. Only ASU members will get free support and advice.

To become a member, fill out the membership overleaf, call the ASU on 1300 855 570 or go to [www.asuvic.asn.au](http://www.asuvic.asn.au)



Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch  
**The Local Government Union**

**For more information about the campaign contact:**

Brian Parkinson, Branch Secretary 0419 555 352 or Richard Duffy, Policy Officer 0425 722 548

**A·S·U**

Authorised by: Brian Parkinson, Secretary, Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch 116 Queensberry St Carlton South VIC 3053 Australia

Printed by: Advanced Mailing Solutions 38 Barrie Road Tullamarine VIC 3043 Australia



# ASU MEMBERSHIP

worth joining

Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch  
 1st & 2nd Floors 116 Queensberry Street Carlton South VIC 3053  
 Telephone: (03) 9342 3400 Facsimile: (03) 9342 3497  
 Email: membership@asuvic.com Web: www.asuvic.asn.au

When you pay by direct debit you save 3% on your fees

Hours Worked	Per Week / Fortnight		Per Week / Fortnight	
0 - 9 Hours	\$2.87	\$5.74	\$2.78	\$5.56
10 - 19 Hours	\$5.21	\$10.42	\$5.06	\$10.11
20 - 29 Hours	\$7.56	\$15.12	\$7.33	\$14.66
30 + Hours	\$9.90	\$19.80	\$9.61	\$19.21
Junior Apprentices & Trainees	\$2.87	\$5.74	\$2.78	\$5.56
School Crossing Supervisors	\$2.87	\$5.74	\$2.78	\$5.56
Family Day Carers	\$5.21	\$10.42	\$5.06	\$10.11

Subscription rates listed are valid until 30 June 2010 - Union fees are fully tax deductible

## AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM [LA LGI]

Please complete all details at Section A and then either Section B, C or D. Return to the ASU by fax: (03) 9342 3497 or mail to: PO Box 37 Carlton South Vic 3053. Should you require further assistance please contact the ASU Office on 1300 85 55 70

### Section A

Title: Mr Ms Miss Mrs (please circle one)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Numbers: Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_

The ASU is committed to equity and access for all members. Do you have any specific impairment or illness related communication or access needs?  Yes  No

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee No: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours worked per week:  0 - 9  10 - 19  20 - 29  30+ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Industry:  Local Government  Social & Community Services  Water  Information Technology  Transport  
 Shipping  Travel  Energy  Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union (ASU) and agree to abide by the rules. I authorise the Branch Secretary of the Authorities and Services Branch (and any successor branch) of the ASU or his/her nominee to be my sole representative in negotiations on the terms and conditions of my employment and to act as bargaining agent and agent on my behalf with my employer in all matters affecting my employment with my employer. I also authorise my employer to provide updated information on changes of name / address / classification / work / location.

I have an existing workplace issue\*  I do not have an existing workplace issue

*\*ASU policy requires that the worker be given representation on pre-existing workplace issues only in exceptional cases as approved by the ASU Branch Secretary. For policy see www.asuvic.asn.au*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section B DIRECT DEBIT BY BANK

I/We: (Full Name/s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment by Financial Institution**

Authorise you, The Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch (the debit user), APCA User ID No. 25674, to arrange for funds to be debited from my/our account at the financial institution identified below and as prescribed below through the Bulk Electronic Clearing System (BECS), such funds to be the amount payable to the ASU to cover my membership fees for the debit period. This authorisation is to remain in force in accordance with the terms described in the Service Agreement.

I/We authorise the following:

- The debit User to verify the details of the above mentioned account with my/our Financial Institution
- The Financial Institution to release information allowing the Debit User to verify the above mentioned account details.

I have read the Direct Debit conditions listed online at [www.asuvic.asn.au](http://www.asuvic.asn.au)

**Account to be debited - all account information must be supplied**

Name of Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_

BSB Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Direct Debit Service Agreement**

The ASU will instruct financial institutions to debit members' accounts on a weekday either:

Fortnightly  Monthly  Quarterly **Next Pay Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section C DIRECT DEBIT BY CREDIT CARD

I authorise the Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities and Services Branch to make debits from my:

MasterCard  Bankcard  Visa

For the appropriate ASU membership fee as advised from time to time, on the following basis:

Monthly  Quarterly  Half Yearly  Yearly

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Card No:

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section D PAYROLL DEDUCTION

[Before completing Section D, please check that your Pay Office offers payroll deduction]

I have confirmed with my employer that payroll deduction is available to me:

I (full name), \_\_\_\_\_

Authorise the employer to make regular deductions from my pay to cover my annual subscription to the Australian Services Union, Victorian Authorities & Services Branch, as determined pursuant to the rules of the ASU and to pay the amount so deducted to the ASU Victorian Authorities & Services Branch. This authority shall remain in force until revoked by me in writing in accordance with the ASU rules and shall extend to any alterations to the amount of the contribution made pursuant to the rules of the Union. I also authorise my employer to provide updated information on changes of name / address / classification / work / location.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_