



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY

# Update

May is a fitting month to start **Seeing Red!**

Aside from the usual May Day activities across the union movement - as part of the 'Respect' campaign - ASU members and officials will be continuing to follow up meetings with MPs and planning rallies outside MPs offices and key DHS sites.



From left to right: Annabelle O'Regan, Pia Cerveri, Craig Marshall, Minister for housing Richard Wynne MP, Tash Wark-ASU after their meeting with him regarding our campaign.

Some groups have prepared for these activities by making banners and networking across agencies. So get in touch with your local organiser to find out more and get involved in showing the Stage Government you are serious and passionate about community sector sustainability!

At a workplace level, a round of meetings has begun to talk about how campaign gains will filter through to you and your co-workers, so contact your local Organiser to find out more!



## Focus on...Paid Parental Leave What are we claiming for and why?

The ASU's suggested claim around parental leave is simple - "Every employee covered by the Agreement will be entitled to at least 18 weeks paid parental leave at their full rate of pay."

The claim is based on the recommendations of the Federal Government's Productivity Commission report into parental leave, and the Commission's draft report explains why 18 weeks leave was considered appropriate.

***"The Commission's choice of a postnatal leave period of 18 weeks is mainly a reflection of concerns to improve child and maternal health and welfare outcomes, which are strongly duration-related:***

***There is compelling evidence of child health and welfare benefits from maternal care of babies until the age of six months, and there is a reasonable prospect that longer periods may also be beneficial. There is also evidence of gains from a father participating in care in this early period. A leave period for maternal recovery after birth should generally be longer than 12 weeks and could potentially be up to six months."***

The Award has no provision for paid parental leave and the Government does not provide funding for 'not for profit' workers, despite the fact that State, Federal and Local Government employees have had this entitlement for many years.

So the ASU's suggested parental leave claim is based on equity and on what is in the best interest of the child and the parents, and recognises that both parents have an active and vital role to play in the raising of a child.

### **What can you do to promote the claim?**

Talk about the claim in your workplace, educate staff regarding why 18 weeks for primary and secondary carers is necessary.

Ensure that the suggested log of claims is put up for endorsement and modification at your workplace.

For more information about the campaign or paid parental leave, talk to your local organiser or the Member Contact Centre on 1300 85 55 70 or [info@asuvic.com](mailto:info@asuvic.com)

## **STOP PRESS QUEENSLAND SACS WORKERS GET JUSTICE.....**

*The Queensland industrial relations commission handed down a decision in the unions pay equity case.*

*The decision awards SACS workers in Queensland between 15% and 30% wage increase!  
A full bulletin will be circulated to members shortly.*

### **Union Tips from an ASU member**

**The ASU office would like to thank MIND ASU Delegate :  
Adam Bottomley for providing this month's tips.**

**If you have ideas you'd like to share, please forward them to the  
Organiser covering your area.**

#### **USE PETITIONS TO GET PEOPLE ACTIVE**

Use campaign petitions as a starting point for finding agreement with people. Then tell them what the union is doing around the issue and ask them if they know anyone who would sign the petition. Give them a page to get filled in. This collects more signatures, builds the profile of the campaign and more importantly, gives that person a sense of involvement in the campaign.

#### **FIND OUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK OR KNOW ABOUT UNIONS**

Ask people what they know about unions or if they've had experiences with them. If they've had positive ones you're reminding the person of them, and if they've had negative experiences you can discuss through the issues, hopefully dispelling some wrong information that they'd heard while giving them a different perspective. Getting a person's opinions out in the open means you know where you stand and what your starting point needs to be in talking to them.

#### **USE YOUR MOMENTUM**

When trying to begin unionising a workplace, start with the one or two people who are the most open to it, not the person who's vocally anti-union. Once you recruit your first one or two people, make it known to others who are considering joining that some workmates already have. Make all of your small successes known to everyone. Once you get a little bit of momentum, get people together in a meeting or informal discussion so they can see that they're part of a collective. Perhaps invite a union speaker to come address your workplace to further make the union more real to members.



# Respect the Workers Sustain the Services

## Regional Round Up

### General Update for Southern Region/ Dandenong/ Peninsula and Inner South

#### Taking the next step towards pay and condition parity

The ASU has begun the process of preparing to initiate bargaining for Enterprise Agreements with many community service employers across Victoria. Come to information sessions to learn what needs to happen in order for your organisation to be part of the bargaining process and how you can be part of making it happen. For parity to become a reality, ASU members need to become involved in their worksites. A little effort from the many can produce big results.

#### **BE PART OF IT!!**

### Ballarat Region

A further event will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 12:30pm. Further information will follow or please contact Kim Delahey at [kdelahey@cafs.org.au](mailto:kdelahey@cafs.org.au). The last Local Organising meeting was held on 5pm, Tuesday, May 5 at CAFS.

### Dandenong Metro

Tuesday May 19, 12.30 – 1.15pm, WAYSS, 294 Thomas Street, Dandenong. To RSVP, contact Julie Kun on (03) 9342 3480 or [jkun@asuvic.com](mailto:jkun@asuvic.com) or WAYSS Delegate Dalene Salisbury at [dalenes@wayssltd.org.au](mailto:dalenes@wayssltd.org.au)

### Bendigo Region

ASU members have met with State politicians Jacinta Allan and Bob Cameron to lobby for increased funding for better wages and conditions for community sector workers.

An important mass meeting for all community sector workers has been planned for May 20 at Bendigo Trades Hall, View St, from 12:30–1:30pm, to discuss the next stages in the campaign and the new IR legislation. For more information about the campaign, please contact ASU members

Shaun [shaunrosaia@bchs.com.au](mailto:shaunrosaia@bchs.com.au)  
Judy [judy@commander360.com](mailto:judy@commander360.com)

### Broadmeadows Region

Members from the Broadmeadows area SACS services are meeting with John Brumby's advisor on May 11. We hope he's in support of the Respect campaign, so watch this space! For more info, please contact Hope Jenkins at [hope@merri.org.au](mailto:hope@merri.org.au) or Luz Espinoza at [luz.espinoza@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:luz.espinoza@anglicarevic.org.au)

### Echuca Region

There are no activities planned in Echuca at the moment.

To organise some campaign activities or for a workplace meeting, contact ASU Organiser Clancy Moore at [cmoore@asuvic.com](mailto:cmoore@asuvic.com) or on 0418 320 625

### Box Hill Metro

There are currently no activities planned for the campaign for Box Hill, so if you would like an organiser to attend a workplace meeting, please contact Tash at [twark@asuvic.com](mailto:twark@asuvic.com) or 9342 3477.

### Brunswick Metro

Workers from the Preston, Fitzroy, and Brunswick networks area are combining to have a campaign 'Shout Out' on Thursday, May 21 at the Department of Human Services, 145 Smith St, Collingwood, from 12:30–1:30pm. For more information, contact local members Adam at [adambottomley@hotmail.com](mailto:adambottomley@hotmail.com) or Sue at [suem@nehs.org.au](mailto:suem@nehs.org.au)

### Fitzroy Metro

### Richmond Metro

Fitzroy members have been hitting the streets! A *Shout Out* on April 23 saw members in their red 'Respect' shirts get active. On May 1 a contingent of members met with local MP Richard Wynne. The Fitzroy group, in conjunction with Preston and Brunswick groups, will be joining for a rally at the front of Collingwood's DHS office, 145 Smith St, on Thursday May 21, between 12:30-1:30pm. We meet on a monthly basis at Neighbourhood Justice Centre, 241 Wellington St, Collingwood. Next meeting is on Thursday, May 14' between 1:30-2:30pm. For more information, contact Rosie Mullany at [rmullany@ysas.org.au](mailto:rmullany@ysas.org.au)



# Respect the Workers Sustain the Services

## Regional Round Up

### Frankston Region

Thursday, May 28, 12.30 - 1.15pm, Brotherhood of St Laurence, High Street Complex, 26 High Street, Frankston. To RSVP, contact Julie Kun on 9342 3480 or [jkun@asuvic.com](mailto:jkun@asuvic.com) or Salvation Army Delegate Mark Cullen at [mark.cullen@aus.salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:mark.cullen@aus.salvationarmy.org.au)

### Horsham Region

Members are encouraged to join in events held in Ballarat or Stawell/Ararat.

If you would like to get more involved or hold local events and meetings, please contact Leon on 0438060298  
Or email [lwiegard@asuvic.com](mailto:lwiegard@asuvic.com)

### Mornington Region

There will be a Shout Out on Wednesday, May 13, between 12-12:30pm at the Mornington Market. This is an half an hour quick action to get the attention of the community. Meeting point is outside the Mornington Post office on Main Street, Mornington. We need as many people as possible to make a little bit of noise. To RSVP to, or for more information, contact Julie Kun on 0419 506 178 or [jkun@asuvic.com](mailto:jkun@asuvic.com)

### Geelong Region

Members held a very successful 'Shout Out' rally on Wednesday, March 18 and have also handed out information about the campaign at Geelong Station and have met with Local MP Ian Tresize. We are now planning our next event – a rally outside Lisa Neville's office in Belmont. As the Victorian Minister for Community Services, we believe that it is important that she understands how important this campaign is. Information about the date and time will be provided in the near future. In the meantime, the Local Organising Network meets on a regular basis after work at the Carrington Hotel. For more information, contact Joe Dejdard at [idejdar@barwonyouth.org.au](mailto:idejdar@barwonyouth.org.au)

### Mildura Region

Local members have organised a training session on "Improving Work/Life for Community Sector workers" at Mallee Family Care on Tuesday, May 12, from 12:30–1:30pm. All workers are welcome to attend. The ASU will also be holding workplace meetings in your area in the second week of May. To arrange a meeting, contact ASU Organiser Clancy Moore at [cmoore@asuvic.com](mailto:cmoore@asuvic.com) or on 0418 320 625. To find out more about the campaign or local activities, contact ASU members Chris Hobart at [chobart@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:chobart@malleefamilycare.com.au) or Louise Hodgson at [lhodgson@masp.org.au](mailto:lhodgson@masp.org.au)

### Inner West

The Inner West Local Organising group will be meeting at Carers' Victoria on Wednesday, May 13, to plan for further activities.

All Inner West Delegates and activists are encouraged to come along to help plan for the event.

For more information, contact Fran Ryan at [franr@carersvic.org.au](mailto:franr@carersvic.org.au) or Matilda Langley at [info@networkwest.net](mailto:info@networkwest.net)

### Outer West Region

The first "Outer West" Activists meeting was held on April 28, 2009. If you would like to be part of the next meeting, please contact Leon on 0438 060 298 or [lwiegard@asuvic.com](mailto:lwiegard@asuvic.com)

### Message from organisers in the west...

Wil Stracke was recently made a Lead Organiser at the ASU and Leon Wiegard now has responsibility for Organisations in the western metro and Grampians areas. Leon is currently organising meetings at organisations in these areas. If you're interested in having a meeting at your workplace to talk about the SACS campaign, please contact Leon on 0438 060 298 or [lwiegard@asuvic.com](mailto:lwiegard@asuvic.com)



# Respect the Workers Sustain the Services

## Regional Round Up

### Portland/Hamilton Region

There are currently no activities planned in Portland or Hamilton, but members are encouraged to watch for upcoming events in Warrnambool. If you would like to get involved in organising something specifically for this area, contact Wil Stracke at [wstracke@asuvic.com](mailto:wstracke@asuvic.com)

### Swan Hill Region

A network lunch has been organised for Wednesday, May 13, at Spoons, Horseshoe Bend, 121 Monash Drive, Swan Hill, from 12:30pm. The lunch will be a get together of community sector workers from the region to discuss the campaign and potential activities. All workers are encouraged to attend. To organise a workplace meeting about the campaign, please contact ASU Organiser Clancy Moore at [cmoore@asuvic.com](mailto:cmoore@asuvic.com) or 0418 320 625

### Stawell/Ararat Region

A meeting of ASU SACS members interested in the SACS campaign was held on Wednesday, May 6, at the Grampians Community Health Centre. Please contact Leon on 0438 060 298 if you would like more details about what was discussed, or details for next meeting.

### Ringwood Region

The Ringwood group met on May 4, and is due to meet again on Monday, June 1, at EACH, 46 Warrandyte Rd, Ringwood, at 1pm. The group has been following up meetings with local politicians James Merlino and Shaun Leane around lobbying for increased funding for the community sector. For more info please contact Cherie Marian at [cheriem@edvos.org.au](mailto:cheriem@edvos.org.au). To arrange a meeting at your workplace about the campaign, please contact Tash on 9342 3477 or at [twark@asuvic.com](mailto:twark@asuvic.com).

### Sunbury/Kyneton Region

There are no activities planned in the Sunbury/Kyneton region at the moment. To organise some campaign activities or for a workplace meeting, contact ASU Organiser Clancy Moore at [cmoore@asuvic.com](mailto:cmoore@asuvic.com) or on 0418 320 625

### Seymour Region

More info about the Seymour network is available from Pam Lawler at [pam.lawler@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:pam.lawler@aus.salvationarmy.org)

### Wangaratta Region

There are no current regional activities planned for the campaign for Wangaratta, so if you would like an organiser to attend a workplace meeting and discuss the Respect campaign please contact Tash at [twark@asuvic.com](mailto:twark@asuvic.com) or on 9342 3477.

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### Shepparton Region

For a workplace meeting in your organisation about the campaign, please contact Tash at [twark@asuvic.com](mailto:twark@asuvic.com) or on 9342 3477

### Warrnambool Region

Members took to the street in Warrnambool, rallying in the shopping centre on Tuesday, April 28. The Local Organising Network is now working on plans for our next event. For more information or to get involved, contact Gary Lucas at

### Wodonga Region

Wodonga meetings happen regularly at Uniting Care, corner of Beechworth Rd and Nilmore Ave, Wodonga. We hope to see you there. For more info, please contact Rebecca Eberle at [reberle@umfc.com.au](mailto:reberle@umfc.com.au)