

ASU concern about implementation of the Modern Award



A•S•U
Australian Services Union
Victorian Authorities and Services Branch

Over recent days the ASU has been contacted by members from numerous sites of the Salvation Army expressing concerns over your employer's decision to implement selected provisions of the Modern Award.

Of particular concern is that many members are facing the loss of entitlements in a sector already notorious for its poor conditions of employment.

Concerns have been expressed by members regarding reductions in their conditions of employment including:

- Personal/Sick leave – reducing to 10 days per annum for new employees beginning from 1 July 2010 and existing employees to begin on 1 January 2011;
- Shift allowances (particularly sleepovers) and penalty rates

The ASU has written* to Lieutenant Colonel Frank Daniels expressing the following:

- Many SACS organisations across Victoria have determined to maintain the provisions of the “old” SACS Award where the conditions are more beneficial to staff;
- It has been traditionally recognised within SACS organisations that the sick leave provisions of the SACS Award were more generous than other sick leave provisions due to the often stressful nature of the work performed by members within the sector;
- The ASU are concerned about the impact on members' wellbeing as a result of this decision and are seeking an immediate reversal of this change.

The new Modern Award system sets the minimum benchmark which an employer must not go below, yet there is nothing in the Fair Work legislation that prevents an employer from maintaining conditions of employment that are more beneficial for workers. Indeed, the motivation of the many employers who have decided to maintain higher conditions for their workers has been to recognise and value the contribution that staff make to their organisation, understanding the financial limitations in the industry on providing improved wages and conditions of employment.

The ASU is seeking a response to our correspondence by Friday 16th July. The ASU will be in touch with members in the week beginning Monday 19th July with further information.

In the interim, if you would like to arrange a local workplace meeting to discuss this matter further, please contact the ASU Member Contact Centre on 1300 85 55 70 or info@asuvic.com for a referral to your regional ASU organiser.

** a copy of this letter has been sent to all ASU delegates at the Salvation Army. Please see your delegate if you would like copy*

**Not an ASU member?
Now is a good time to join – protect your rights at work**

Join online at <http://www.asuvic.asn.au/1056.html>

Lisa Darmanin
Assistant Branch Secretary



Wil Stracke
Industrial Officer /Organiser