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## A•S•U PRESS RELEASE

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### Yarra City Council burying the right to union representation

The Australian Services Union and its members at Yarra City Council will hold a protest to support an ASU delegate who was denied union representation in a disciplinary meeting.

Our member was told by Acting Manager for Family and Children's Services Jody Spratling that the employee wouldn't need union representation because it was a return to work meeting and not a disciplinary meeting. Spratling specifically told the delegate, "don't bring [ASU Organiser] Richard Duffy".

The Australian Services Union and its members are outraged that Council have tricked a delegate into attending a meeting without representation, and will hold a protest funeral that will see members mourning the burial of their workplace right to union representation.

ASU Organiser Richard Duffy said that the union is appalled at this kind of trickery.

"We will always defend our members' basic right to union representation and we will never let Yarra City Council or any other council get away with this sort of trickery. The right to union representation and membership is enshrined in the Fair Work Act as well as in the International Declaration of Human Rights."

Fellow ASU Organiser Lita Gillies was equally amazed at Council's ignorance in relation to the Fair Work Act.

"Human Resources Manager Frank Rog's response to our concerns has been alarming. He expects us to believe that suggesting that a delegate can consult with their union organiser is the same as telling them that they have the right to representation. Frank Rog obviously needs to read the Fair Work Act. It is quite clear that every worker has the right to union representation in disciplinary meetings."

The ASU also believes management have missed out on a very important step in this investigation, which is the right to hear and respond to investigation outcomes. Instead, managers held a so-called "return to work meeting" that mainly covered how they would discipline our member.

"Union members have the right to representation at all times, and the feeling among ASU members is that council need to work to ensure they don't bury one of their basic workplace rights," said Gillies.

***The protest will be held at Richmond Town Hall (Bridge Road) at 12pm today and will involve a funeral procession along Bridge Road.***

-ENDS-

#### For further information:

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