

COMBINE UNIONS HEALTH MAINTENANCE AWARD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Wednesday, 10 November 2010

Update No. 1

Members Endorse Industrial Campaign

On Wednesday, 10 November 2010, over 60 workplace delegate and members held a meeting and unanimously endorsed the establishment of a Combined Unions Campaign Committee to direct bargaining and campaign activities for better wages and conditions for health maintenance employees.

On Wednesday, 10 November 2010, delegates and union members were addressed by union organisers from the following unions:

- Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU)
- CEPU Plumbing Division (Plumbers)
- Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)
- Electrical Trades Union (ETU)
- Unions NSW

NSW GOVERNMENT WAGES POLICY

The meeting was advised all NSW public sector wage negotiations are governed by the NSW Government's *NSW Public Sector Wages Policy*.

The aim of the policy is to maintain (**constrain**) real wages by allowing for increases of only 2.5 % per annum. The 2.5% is based on the mid-point of the Reserve Banks inflation rate of 2-3%.

All additional wage increases to be funded through employee-related cost savings. Savings are not "productivity based" but are found through "**cost savings**", that is, job cuts or the loss of existing award conditions.

The meeting unanimously rejected the idea of trading off existing conditions for a pay rise.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

The following resolution was unanimously passed at the meeting:

This meeting of members resolves that a campaign committee be established and empowered to direct actions as required to achieve our agreed goals

As a result, a Campaign Committee is being established with representatives from each union to work with union organisers to co-ordinate actions with members during the negotiations.

It is anticipated the first meeting of the Campaign Committee will take place prior to the first negotiation meeting with management.

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

The meeting resolved to develop an email communication network to ensure all members are kept up to date with negotiations. Bulletins like this one will be regularly distributed to keep members advised of the campaigns progress.

SURVEYS

The Combined Health Maintenance Unions will be circulating a survey to all members regarding issues which should be included in our log of claims. The survey will be distributed by organisers and workplace delegates.

The survey will assist the Combined Health Maintenance Unions Bargaining Team to compile a log of claims to be served on the Department.

NSW INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION HEARING

The Combined Health Maintenance Unions will be in the Industrial Commission at 3:30pm on Monday, 15 November 2010, over the refusal of the Department of Health to release delegates for today's one off delegates meeting.

Further information will be provided to delegates at the conclusion of this hearing.

For more information please contact your union organiser.

