

# COMBINED UNIONS HEALTH MAINTENANCE AWARD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Wednesday, 17 November 2010

Update No. 2

## Health Management Walk Out of Talks

On Wednesday, 17 November 2010, the Combined Health Maintenance Unions held a meeting with the Department of Health for a new Award and pay rise. Management's first act was to refuse to release 32 members to attend a delegates meeting. Management then closed the meeting and walked out.

This morning the Combined Maintenance Unions met with the Department of Health to discuss the following agenda:

1. Combined Unions' Delegates Meeting
2. Confirm position on previous offer
3. Health NSW's claims
4. Negotiation Process and Timeframes
5. General Business

Unfortunately, the Department of Health again refused the request to have 32 delegates released in order to hold a delegates meeting and to elect a negotiating team to participate in negotiations.

The Combined Maintenance Unions stressed once again this was a one off meeting consistent with the process undertaken in the 2008 negotiations.

The Department of Health again rejected the request despite the NSW Industrial Commission having requested they reconsider their position.

The Combined Maintenance Unions stated to the Department this was not acceptable and they would be reporting the Department's position back to the membership and seek their guidance on exactly what should occur to resolve this issue.

**The Department of Health then stated there was "obviously" nothing more to discuss and they decided to close the meeting and left. None of the other issues on the agenda were discussed.**

After the meeting it was resolved by the Combined Maintenance Unions to organise workplace meetings to inform members of the Department's position and to seek a direction from them on what,

if any, campaign would occur in support of our request to hold a delegates meeting.

The meeting also resolved to ensure **any campaign would not impact on patient services nor should it endanger the safety of other employees or the general public.**

Unions NSW was requested to contact the other unions covering employees in these workplaces in order to:

1. inform them of the industrial situation now facing members;
2. advise them that the combined maintenance trades unions were not seeking to deliberately inconvenience any of their membership or patients; and
3. seeking their support for the campaign and to advise their delegates of the campaign.

As a courtesy Unions NSW was also requested to advise the Minister's office of the situation.

In the meantime, dates, times and locations of workplace meetings will be circulated by organisers from each union in order to develop a hospital meeting plan over the next two weeks to advise members of what is occurring.

Unions NSW will also write to the Department of Health for a third time to seek the release of 32 delegates for a meeting on **Thursday, 9 December 2010 at Unions NSW.**

Should the Department of Health again refuse to release delegates a decision will be taken closer to the time as to what action in support of this meeting will be taken.

**For more information please contact your union organiser.**

