

STEVE VANDYKE WANTS TO SAY THANKS !!!!!!!

I would like to say **thanks**, to all the great blokes who helped me this year!

I have been very **ill lately**.

Against my wishes, went to Canberra last year for work. Living in a caravan park far from family **my** home. At **Christmas time** after 6 mths, I'd had enough, so I packed up and came back **hoping Sydney work** had picked up.

In January I got what I thought was the flu, 5 days later I am lying in a hospital bed with a 300mm scar down my stomach and a bag glued to my new bum.

As I **was unemployed at this time**, I had no **insurance cover**, ever! I had divorced 6 mths earlier and had **purchased** a flat, just before hospital, **So financially** I was in the **red**, big time! A new bum and a big debt!!

The boys from my Canberra job heard of my problems and quickly rallied around.

Dave Stevenson (Crazy to those who know him, **thanks Crazy**) organised a whip around from all 35 plus blokes on the Edmond Barton site (Axis Canberra) . They came up with an unprecedented \$2000 + WOW!!!

Can you imagine how I felt? I had only met most of these fellows 6 mths ago. This brothers, is a fantastic demonstration of '**solidarity**'!!

I can never thank these blokes enough! They know that my door is always open and my phone is on, anything I can do to help you blokes **and return your generous gift** will be my pleasure!!!!

Unfortunately, my bad luck continued. **After returning to work**, in July and had a fall coming home from work, after the 8th day! I snapped a ligament in my right shoulder. 2 weeks after this I got another pain in my stomach and it was back to hospital for another abdominal operation and another bag!

Because I had a job this time, I was able to claim on the **TOP UP insurance**. with the help of Ian Wright from our **Plumbers Union NSW** branch. Ian's help was invaluable as he did a lot of running around with forms and fax's Thx mate!

I go back to hospital in November, to have my bowel reconnected and hopefully I'll be ready for work in the new year. My story brothers, is an example of why it is so important we stick together! That **insurance** saved me and the brothers in Canberra restored my faith in humanity.

If I had not been working for an EBA company I would have been covered by the 24 hour TOP UP insurance, it has been a god send and relief off my financial burden, So brothers, please know that being a member of a union is a worthwhile thing and with more stories like mine we will become stronger **Union** in the future!

Once again, many thanks to all those people who have helped me through this year.

Steve Vandyke
Proud Union Member