

Social Workers August Update

Dear Member,

In the last two months, fantastic and committed Social Workers across the state have convened to commence the important and difficult work of improving your workplace conditions. The Social Workers Industrial Advisory Committee convened on 22 July 2022 and 19 August 2022.

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Discuss the Terms of Reference for the Committee and have it endorsed by Committee members.
- Discuss structure and logistics of the Committee – regularity of Committee meetings, mode of communication.
- Election of positions including Committee Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.
- Discuss Allied Health survey preliminary results.
- Discuss issues impacting Social Workers in NSW Health.

During the meeting, the Committee nominated the following members for positions:

- Secretary: Elizabeth Fitzsimmons
- Chairperson: Paul Bains
- Deputy Secretary: Martin Silveria
- Deputy Chairperson: Ellen Curtis

The Committee will meet monthly to discuss key issues in the Awards covering Social Workers as well as industrial and collective issues impacting the profession. The next meeting will be held on 16th September at 1:00pm. A key resolution passed by the Committee is to ensure transparency for the work that is being completed by Committee members. The identified priority areas of the Committee thus far are:

- Developing HSU proposals for reform to modernise the Social Workers award.
- Developing a consistent state-wide process for HSU members to access personal regrade committees.
- Improving professional recognition and resourcing for Social Workers within public health.
- Improving Social Workers conditions e.g. on-call, flexible working arrangements, sole practitioner allowance.

If there is a collective issue impacting Social Workers that you'd like the Committee to explore or issues you'd like placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting, please contact HSU Industrial Officer Anam Rafi on Anam.Rafi@hsu.asn.au.

Not a member of the HSU? Now is time to join and have your say! You can join online at www.hsu.asn.au/join or call 1300 HSU NSW and join over the phone.

A union's effectiveness and negotiation power depends on the strength and density of its membership base. Join your work colleagues today by becoming a member of the Health Services Union and help us continue to protect and improve your working life.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD