

**HEALTH SERVICES UNION BRANCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
SYDNEY MASONIC CENTRE, GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY ON
TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2013 AT 2.28 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE: G Hayes, J Chester, W Lloyd, R Henderson, R Dunn, G Reilly, L Twyford, L Snow, J Holgate, C Lee, S Davis, A Wilcock, S Haynes, G Partridge, L Burns, C Charles, D Turley, L Martin, S Joseph, D Neumann, P Iffland, S O'Riley, S Fraser, P Reid, M Pike and A Lillicrap.

CHAIRPERSON: M Sterrey (President)

APOLOGIES: B Harris

Moved S Joseph/R Dunn that the apologies be accepted.

Motion put and carried.

VISITORS: A McDonald, T Stevanja, B Cornwell, A Hall and S Champness.

Moved L Martin/D Turley that the visitors as listed above be admitted to the meeting.

Motion put and carried.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Nil

MINUTES: Moved S Joseph/L Burns that the Branch Council minutes of 27th March 2013 be received and adopted.

Motion put and carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

SECRETARY'S REPORTS:

I can now report that I have had the ability to attend each local health district at least one and a half times and this is consistent with my pledge of being in each Local Health District three times every year.

The Union is growing and over recent times we have seen with the continued focus on growth and development further enhancement in membership numbers. These improved numbers have been established due to the investment of staff across the board but particularly so in the Aged care area.

We have had ability to meet with state and federal Government ministers including Tanya Plibersek, Mark Butler, Bill Shorten and at the state level Jillian Skinner, Mike Baird and Greg Pearce. We also met with members of the Shooters Party. With respect to sponsorship Councillors would have noticed that very few sponsors if any had maintained relationship with the Union however I can report now that Hesta State Super and My Credit Union have now sought to build relationship and undertake advertising and conference activity with us. The property and fees review are well under way and it is envisaged that committed steps in these areas will occur over the next 6 months.

The National Union continues to work collaboratively albeit at embryonic stages and there is a view from other State Unions that further rule changes are required to ensure consistency of approach and equity with respect to decision making. The Queensland Branch is also an issue apparently being dealt with between NSW and the National Union with the view to decreasing costs and increasing membership within Queensland.

The Holiday Cabins at Jarvis Bay will continue to be a main function of the HSU and at this time I can report that following negotiations with the RTBU we will be in a position to decrease the fee by approximately 10%.

With respect to savings we can identify that shifting current car parking locations will deliver an annual saving with excess of \$25,000. We will continue to look at ways where savings can be enhanced by reduction in expenditure.

I have been requested to meet with the Nurses Association over concerns relating to potential demarcation issues. These concerns harboured by the Nurses are shared by myself and whilst Nurses wished to raise this as a concern it is my intention to advise them to vacate their strategies or we will pursue demarcation.

In terms of Aged Care Lindy Twyford and I have appeared before a Senate Committee with respect to Aged Care funding. We have also had the ability to meeting with Mark Butler to address HSU concerns relating to 457 visas.

In terms of Ambulance we have recently seen activity on behalf of other Unions supporting EMPSA and their potential affiliation to Unions NSW. It is quite remarkable that an Organisation that relied on the Government changing legislation several times would include in its first survey of members a question that would ask what conditions they are prepared to trade for a wage increase.

The Aged care and Ambulance divisions are taking form and with the introduction of new staff in the Aged care Area full autonomy will be delivered to that division. Equally so with the formation of the Aged Care and Ambulance Committee's decision making with respect to their particular interests will become more focussed within those particular groups.

In terms of industrial activity we have seen a range of EBA's being negotiated, issues with RPA Security, Royal North Shore Hospital PPP, Ambulance Helicopter insurances continues, NEPT across the LDH and Ambulance Sectors, Rural Rostering Disputes within Ambulance, Junior Medical Officer remote recalls and EMPSA jurisdictional registration challenges.

Currently and of particular importance is the 2.5% annual increase that is affected by the wage fixing principles and is currently subject to litigation by the HSU, PSA and Unions NSW.

Finally it is important to note that the Union has been accepted back to Unions NSW and currently I am working on the issues with the ACTU that will see our re-admittance at a national level.

RESOLUTION

Moved R Dunn/C Charles that the Secretary's report as previously reported be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer advised that there were a number of tenders going out at the moment. They include the legal services tender, the Customer Relationship Management software tender that is the Memforce program. Work is also proceeding on the insurance tender. Most of our insurance comes up for expiry at the end of September. The broker that we are using at the moment has been with us for many years. The Union will be seeking the services of brokering services, so we will assess the quality of the brokers that come forward. Out of that we will select two or three and then ask those brokers to go and seek out the best possible policies. These tenders are required from both a probity point of view and testing the market as we should do on a regular basis. In these cases this hasn't been done for many years.

The new HSU Website is now up and running. The website has been designed, developed and gone live in just 8 weeks. This was needed due to the planned cut off of the old website by the HSUs previous IT provider. The new website can continue to grow and develop and extra pages added as required. It's now properly scaled for iPad's and will be refashioned for mobile phone. It's all part of the package that we paid and incurs no additional cost.

The Audit and Finance Committee has been meeting and the minutes have been sent out earlier to the Council. We will include those in the Council papers from now on a regular basis.

RESOLUTION

Moved P Iffland/S O'Reilly that the Assistant Secretary's report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

FINANCE REPORT:

As per attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved L Twyford/L Burns that the finance report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – MEMBERSHIP

Membership within the HSU has grown by a net increase of 2% in the last 7 months. Much of this growth has been in the Aged Care Sector and is also due to additional resources being placed within the Aged Care Team. I can advise that a Team Leader/Divisional Manager is currently being recruited as well as an Organiser in the Aged Care Sector to further exploit growth within the Division.

RESOLUTION

Moved R Henderson/W Lloyd that the report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – LEVELS 3 & 4, 370 PITT STREET, SUBDIVISION VERSUS SALE

Advice received to date from Drake Property has been along the lines of a subdivision of Level 3 and 4, 370 Pitt St with a view to later selling or leasing them as smaller suites. It is generally considered that smaller suites are ultimately easier to sell or lease at the southern end of the city, as there are many Asian businesses and small solicitors in that market. It is a different market to the other end of the city, where larger suites or whole floors are utilised by large corporate firms.

RESOLUTION

Moved J Chester/G Reilly that subject to the market testing contained in the independent valuations received by the HSU for Level 3 and Level 4, 370 Pitt St Sydney and two car spaces in the building, that Branch Council decides to sell the properties at Level 3 and Level 4, 370 Pitt St, Sydney plus the two car spaces. That the offer contained in the letter from Drake Property of 12 June 2013 (attached) be used as the basis for negotiations.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – UNIONS NSW

The efforts of the Union, Union Committee and Council have been recognised by way of the recent announcement that the HSU NSW has had its suspension lifted from Unions NSW. This unanimous decision was taken following an independent review conducted by KPMG and the financial officers of Unions NSW.

RESOLUTION

Moved C Charles/C Lee that Branch Council acknowledges the decision of Unions NSW and endorses a full delegation to attend the Unions NSW meeting of the first week of July.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA 4 – EMSPA

As the Branch Council would be aware the Union undertook legal activity with respect to an application by EMPSA to be registered as a trade Union within the NSW Industrial Relations Commission. The NSW Industrial Relation Commission has approved EMPSA's application despite a series of anomalies that have been raised during the case. An appeal to decision is an opportunity however, in all likelihood any technicalities that was raised would be accommodated by the Commission or indeed subject to legislative changes by the NSW Government.

RESOLUTION

Moved A Wilcock/S Davis that Branch Council notes the advice that NSW Industrial Relations Commission has registered EMPSA as a Trade Union and in doing so acknowledges any form of appeal would be futile and will not be in the interest of Union's membership.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Following discussions with the National President HSU NSW has indicated that the growth and development of the Queensland Branch should be a responsibility of NSW. While this Branch is subject to orders by the Supreme Court with respect to administration logistically it would be more sensible for NSW to assist in redeveloping the Queensland Branch from a service, growth and administrative perspective. The Union has up until the 2014 elections to establish a Branch Committee of Management and appropriate administrative processes.

This initiative will entail a significant saving for the National Union at the same time as utilising staff that are within the Queensland vicinity.

RESOLUTION

Moved G Partridge/S Joseph that the branch Council endorses the NSW initiative to assist and support the Queensland Branch of the HSU and accepts responsibility to develop appropriate governance and financial systems.

Motion put and carried.

AMENDMENT

Moved D Turley/S Joseph that the Branch Council endorses the NSW initiative to assist and support the Queensland Branch of the HSU and accepts responsibility to develop appropriate business plan governance and financial systems.

Motion as amended put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – AGED CARE

The Union has representations with respect to the Aged Care Division at the level of the Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Mark Butler as well as the Senate enquiry into Aged Care. The Union has been well represented by Lindy Twyford on both occasions. Lindy has also shared the inaugural meeting of Aged Care representatives that will ultimately become the Advisory Council in Aged Care. The Union can also advise that the position of Aged Care Team Leader/Divisional Manager as well as Aged Care Organiser have been advertised to further support Aged Care members.

RESOLUTION

Moved L Twyford/P Reid that the Item be received, noted and that Branch Council endorses a further investment into Aged Care and staffing.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – FEES REVIEW

The Union is progressing with the commitment to review fees and the Fees review Committee has met on at least two occasions. The reduction in fees can be done in a range of manners ranging from an equal fee cut for all members to a tiered approach or a sector approach. These opportunities are being reviewed and once a proposal has been developed will be forwarded to Branch Council for its consideration.

RESOLUTION

Moved S Haynes/M Pike that the report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – RETIRED MEMBERS DIVISION

The Union has an increasing amount of interest in developing a Retired Members Division. This interest ranges from members who would like to continue with the industrial and political contributions to the Union as well as other members who seek to maintain Union benefits such as funeral. This is a way of continuing to protect members as well as to evolve a Division that will ultimately be able to assist with further benefits as they get older.

RESOLUTION

Moved M Pike/P Iffland the Branch Council endorses the Secretary to take all necessary steps to produce a report that will outline the benefits and financial implications of developing a retired Members Division.

Motion put and carried.

ITEM 9 – MEDIA TENDER

Branch Council approved as an interim process the appointment of Mountain Media to undertake media activities for the Union. This has been in place for the past 5 months and it is now appropriate to put out expressions of interest for media services going forward. Media has become a vital component to the Organisation and certainly will be required as the Union continues to grow, develop and rebuild.

RESOLUTION

Moved L Martin/M Pike that the Branch Council endorses that the Secretary seek expressions of interests by way of advertising in the Sydney Morning Herald for appropriately qualified and experienced media organisations to assist the Union in its media activities.

Motion put and carried.

Moved A Wilcock/P Iffland that all the reports, agenda items, resolutions and amendments as received before be adopted.

Motion put and carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There being no general business the meeting closed at 2.52 p.m.

Chairperson