

**HEALTH SERVICES UNION BRANCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WESLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE, 220 PITT STREET, SYDNEY ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 AT 1.57 P.M.**

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**DISCLAIMER:**

Moved D Turley/P Iffland that the identical matters included in the Branch Council meeting of the HSU NSW/ACT agenda dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 that have been dealt with previously by way of resolution or information purposes at the immediately preceding HSU NSW/ACT Council meeting, may not require further discussion after being moved, seconded and voted upon. Consistent with this, Branch meeting times run shorter than would be reflected in the Agenda.

Motion put and carried.

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

**CHAIRPERSON:** M Sterrey (President).

**APOLOGIES:** L Martin and M Pike.

Moved J Holgate/A Wilcock that the apologies be accepted.

Motion put and carried.

**OBSERVERS:** I Knight, A McDonald, A Lewis, D Perry, S Champness, Dr Senthil, A Hall, A Coates, W Boon, A Dowsley, B Cornwell and M Milosevic.

Moved S Fraser/J Chester that the observers as listed above be admitted to the meeting.

Motion put and carried.

**DECLARATION:** Nil

**MINUTES:** Moved L Twyford/R Henderson that the Branch Council minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 be received and adopted.

Motion put and carried.

**SECRETARY'S REPORTS:**

The Secretary welcomed all the Councillors and advised that the Union is approaching a particularly busy period. In the last report it was noted that Christmas had provided a lull in activity however the organisation is gaining momentum. It's important to note that the past 14 – 15 months we have seen stability right across the organisation. The operational and

financial interests have progressed to a position that will enable the Union to engage the challenges that will be ucoming.

In terms of key challenges, the first and most significant challenge is privatisation of public Health Services. This will be a watershed moment for the Union. Mike Baird has said quite clearly, that not only is he a proponent of privatisation, he is actually has a preference for the Western Australian model. Everything is outsourced across the board except for nursing and medical positions in WA. They're outsourced to Serco which is a major international company.

The Royal Commission has begun and we have engaged the Committee with the assistance of our lawyers and also Ian Temby. Ian Temby QC will be representing the Union at the Royal Commission.

The Union was represented well in the May Day march. People were very enthusiastic about HSU attending.

We are now an Organisation that is not only to be reckoned with but an Organisation that is actually taking the lead industrially in NSW. We have engaged further transparency within the organisation by taking the financial details of the organisation to members around the State.

Another step going forward will be in the Rule changes for an independent person to sit on the Finance Committee. This person will not be involved in the strategic development of the organisation however will be able to scrutinise the financial and governance processes of the Union.

Internally we have an EBA process being conducted. For the first time staff will have the ability to negotiate a set of wages and conditions that are consistent and equitable across the group. I am pleased to be able to report a full range of staff have been represented from the membership department to the industrial department, to the organising area. Once we finalise the EBA, people will know that they have conditions in place in there for the long term.

In relation to litigation we have finalised the Williamson and Seymour matters.

I would like to acknowledge everybody in the room; this is the last Council meeting of this administration. The Council, the BCOM, and the Officers have done a remarkable job over the past 14-15 months to rebuild the Union in such a short period of time. Our debt is going to be about less than 50% from what it was 15 months ago and this has come through from hard work. We are growing at about 5.5% annually and I anticipate we will recruit 2000 members in the next 12 months through the Anti-privatisation campaign that we are conducting.

In the next 5 to 7 years we are going to lose up to 50% of our membership through attrition. All the hard work that has been undertaken could be for nought if we don't engage and educate the next generation in maintaining the fight. Andrew and Angela especially have done a great job with the finances of the organisation. The Council, the BCOM and Finance Committee have given their time so liberally to address the enormous challenges that confronted us. The staff, the organisers, the industrial officers have all contributed to the current standing of the HSU. The culture of the organisation has changed with the assistance

of the new staff that has brought new ideas and experiences. I want to also thank Mark who has also done remarkable job in leading us through this.

In terms of growth, the Union is nearing the 31,000 member mark. Growth is being generated through activity on the ground. Private hospitals are starting to move forward. I want to thank Alan, because your people have grown and are contributing to the establishment of the private health division in the near future. HSU ACT has started to move forward. More resources will be put in to be able to support staff to achieve outcomes particularly in NDIS. Aged Care is just remarkable; David Perry and his team are putting a lot of effort into growing and sustaining the membership and continue to be a very strong part of our organisation.

Ambulance is starting to move forward again, through our activities and the dedicated work undertaken by Steve, Warren and the team.

### **RESOLUTION**

Moved L Twyford/R Henderson that the Secretary's report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

- The property at Level 3, 370 Pitt Street, Sydney has now been sold after a long process. It was sold for \$3.8M which did not include the car space. The car space can now be sold separately.
- The Newcastle office has also been sold for \$550,000 and the net proceeds (adjusted for GST and agents fees) will now go towards paying off debt and reducing it. When the new management came in the debt was \$14.2M. Currently the debt is at \$10.7M. The debt will go down in August to \$6.4M when Level 3, 370 Pitt St is settled in August. That means in real terms interest savings on a yearly basis of about \$239,000. These savings can now go towards paying for member services rather than the bank.
- The additional cost of the bank line fee that was imposed by the Commonwealth Bank because of the higher risk of the HSU and the bank guarantee provided by NSW for the Victorian No.1 Branch has now been resolved. The additional bank line fee continued on for a bit longer than was hoped for about 7 weeks, costing the NSW Union \$26,800. As a result of negotiations and reconciling an amount of money owed by NSW to Victoria, this will be resolved fully by 30 June with the Victorian No.1 Branch effectively reimbursing NSW for the cost of this delay.
- HSU NSW has got cash in bank of \$2.6M. It also means that we are now earning interest of about \$26,000.
- I have been out talking to members about the state of the Union and its finances and how far the Union has come in a short time. Members have been very interested in understanding these things.
- At our previous Council meeting we moved a motion bestowing life membership to a member at Prince of Wales Hospital - Col Roy. Col had been through many battles industrially over the years including a major anti-privatisation campaign, but more recently had been facing battles with his personal health. Sadly, Colin Roy passed away about 3 weeks ago.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved G Partridge/S Joseph that the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer's report be received and adopted.

Motion put and carried.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

As per attached.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved G Partridge/S Joseph that the finance report be received and adopted.

Motion put and carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – ROYAL COMMISSION**

The Union has met with the Royal Commission in a very frank and open manner. The Royal Commission has outlined their areas of interest and following this meeting have issued a letter making enquiries with respect to matters we may be able to assist. At this time we are providing written correspondence with respect to their enquiries addressing each point individually. It is anticipated that further requests will be made in the future and the Union will fully comply with each request as it is received.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved D Turley/R Dunn the Branch Council notes the Union's cooperation and assistance with respect to the Royal Commission into Trade Union corruption and commits to continuing in this manner throughout the Royal Commission process.

Motion put and carried.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 –LITIGATION**

The Union continues its litigation process in 2012/347167 with the remaining defendants being Mylan and Jensen. The Seymour matter has been resolved in a manner consistent with Council's previous endorsement however, the Mylan matter continues with no likelihood of settlement. The Jensen matter also continues. Both Mylan and Jensen have been subject to directions hearings and the Union is now at the point of preparing evidence which is required by the 30<sup>th</sup> May.

In relation to McMillan and Access Focus evidence is being sought at this time and it is envisaged that hearing dates will be set in coming months.

**RESOLUTION**

This item is for information purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – ASU DISABILITY COVERAGE**

The Union has recently been contacted by the ASU in relation to potential demarcation issues within NSW. This in itself is not a major concern however, a proposal has been forwarded that there may be an opportunity for HSU NSW/ACT to cover disability in the ACT and that the ASU will have coverage in NSW area. While the Union fully intends to engage and support our members and potential members in the ACT it is not in the interests of our current members in NSW to relinquish them to the ASU particularly given that any potential demarcation issues are able to be resolved in a consultative environment.

**RESOLUTION**

This item is for information purposes only.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

There being no general business the meeting closed at 2.07pm.

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**Chairperson**