

## Vale Neale Flynn

It is with great sadness that we announce the untimely passing of a colleague, friend and workplace leader, Neale Flynn, at the age of 57.

'Flynn' as he was known, was an active and passionate unionist working as a PTO in Ambulance, and then in HealthShare after the green and LHD fleets were merged by the Ministry.

He held the inaugural position of President of the HealthShare PTO Subbranch where he fearlessly engaged in the battle to ensure his workmates lives and jobs were safe, respected, and dignified.

During the early transition to HealthShare Flynn became aware that HealthShare planned to 'grandparent' green fleet's superior pay and conditions. This would mean that only pre-existing Ambulance PTOS would continue on the higher pay, while LHD PTOs and all new starters would stay on the lower rate of pay. Flynn urged his fellow Ambulance members to stand up and fight against grand parenting 'because no one wants to work with someone doing the same job on less pay'. He successfully led green fleet PTOs into an industrial campaign where government strenuously opposed the planned industrial action. Despite the full support of the IRC in attempting to stop the industrial action government eventually agreed to lift all PTOs up to the higher pay and conditions, including new starters.

Flynn was also instrumental both as a key witness and one of the main drivers of the HSU Crib Away Allowance battle that continues to this day. One of his last formal acts as a delegate was to ensure that the IRC has scheduled hearings to allow HSU members to continue the fight. Everyone at the HSU office is sad that he will not be around to see the results of his tireless work on behalf of his fellow workers in the Crib Away case.

Testament to the man is he often put himself on the line, and his job was threatened on at least one occasion from Ministry staff who didn't agree with the position he was putting on behalf of his members. Those who knew the man will tell you that threatening Flynn or his members did not go down very well. His courage will always be remembered.

Flynn will be deeply missed by us here in the HSU office, and by the whole union family. Farewell mate, you are an inspiration to us all.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD