

## It is never OK to be assaulted at work

Dear Member,

Your Union continues to hear reports from members that they have been assaulted at work.

This could include being punched, slapped, kicked or sexually assaulted etc by residents/clients.

We know that this can cause serious physical, mental and emotional harm. We also know that in too many Aged Care or Disability workplaces, assaults by residents/clients are not treated seriously or are even dismissed as just being part of the job.

Your employer has a responsibility to ensure you are safe at work.

By law, your employer must take steps to prevent you being assaulted at work.

It is also illegal for you to be assaulted by anyone, anywhere.

Our advice to members who have been assaulted is:

1. Notify your employer in writing such as an email or incident report form (and keep a copy yourself).
2. If your employer does not take steps to prevent further assaults, contact the HSU on 1300 478 679 or email [info@hsu.asn.au](mailto:info@hsu.asn.au).
3. Assault is a crime. If you believe you have been assaulted, you can make a complaint to the Police (call 131 444). You cannot be punished for making a complaint to the police about a crime.

We also want to hear from members who have been assaulted at work. What happened? How was it handled by your employer? Email [agedcare@hsu.asn.au](mailto:agedcare@hsu.asn.au) with your story.

Now more than ever workers need protection. Encourage your workmates to join [www.hsu.asn.au/join](http://www.hsu.asn.au/join) or phone 1300 478 679.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD