

Doorknocking for aged care

Dear Member,

As many of you are getting up early in winter to start work, spare a thought for your colleagues in the Clarence Valley that have either lost their jobs or lost hours, shifts or penalty rate shifts. As more and more facilities conduct staffing reviews to cope with the ongoing funding crisis, workers and residents continue to suffer.

In the last fortnight Southern Cross Care have cut 734 working hours per fortnight in their Casino and Grafton facilities. This will have a severe impact on staffing and care. Another casualty is the iconic Grafton Aged Care. It was run by the local community since the 1940s; now it is owned and run by Western Australian aged care provider Hall and Prior. We are seeing this same scenario more and more as standalone facilities struggle. With up to 58% of regional aged care facilities running at a loss, the community will only see more of it unless something changes.

As I am sure members are aware, the HSU has launched a campaign called **Our Turn To Care** to restore appropriate levels of funding to aged care. This is so that our members can earn a decent living wage, as well as providing the care and dignity their residents deserve.

Campaigns might be coordinated at offices in Sydney, but they are fought and won on the ground. This Sunday 5 August, the HSU will be teaming up with the NSW Teachers' Federation to door knock in Grafton and raise concerns about federal funding. Again, these grass roots campaigns are fought door to door. Raising awareness of the plight of aged care and education due to funding cuts helps people make an informed decision when casting their vote. How many people might have voted differently if they knew the federal government was going to cut \$1.2b from aged care in 2016?

Your colleagues, residents and community are calling on you to come doorknocking with us this Sunday for a couple of hours. Training will be provided, as will a BBQ lunch afterwards. Please see below for dates and times. RSVP to HSU North Coast organiser Kirk Rostock at kirk.rostock@hsu.asn.au or 0488 086 907.

We hope to see you there.

**Sunday 5 August 10:30am
South Grafton Ex Services Club
2 Wharf St South Grafton.**

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD