

## **PTS management plead with PTOs to sell out their rights**

As you would have noticed, PTS management are contacting PTOs to spruik their 'offer' of a .5% pay rise (over and above the 2.5% that PTOs will get anyway) to settle 'all disputes' between the HSU and PTS.

Those disputes include the Crib Away dispute and the Infectious Cleaning Allowance. HSU PTOs have been fighting for right to dine at their own station since the fleet transfer to HealthShare. This right is something that shouldn't be taken for granted. Why shouldn't PTOs enjoy their meal in comfortable and familiar surroundings like other workers, including workers in the transport industry?

The HSU took PTS to the Industrial Relations Commission seeking an allowance, of an hour's pay, for each time our members missed out on dining in their own station. This is the same penalty that paramedics get when they 'crib away'. The IRC ruled in favour of the HSU. PTS and Treasury have been appealing the decision since.

Knowing their appeals are running out, they've asked HSU to settle – for .5%, or typically \$5.06 per week for PTOs. They want members to sell out their right to dine at their own station, or an hour's pay when you don't, for \$5 a week.

Furthermore, they are threatening to appeal the recent win on the Infectious Cleaning allowance if members do not agree to settle all disputes. Government should either appeal it or pay it – they should not be using the threat of an appeal to coerce members into giving away rights.

And here's the thing. If we were to eventually lose the endless appeals for the Crib Away Allowance in the IRC, it would not stop us from finding another way to ensure members crib at station (there are all sorts of ways to make life difficult for management if we don't get our way on something). By refusing to settle, we get to live to fight another day.

As a democratic organisation, we have run a vote for the last couple of weeks on this matter. More than 120 members have responded to the survey and a resounding 85.06% have rejected the offer. So we won't be settling because our members have spoken.

Congratulations to members for participating in the HSU vote. We'll be informing government that the fight for PTO's rights continues.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD