

## **Catholic Healthcare: An agreement we cannot support**

Dear Member,

The HSU has been made aware of a communication that has been sent out to Catholic Healthcare employees, encouraging staff to vote 'Yes' to what can only be described as a substandard offer. The Union cannot in all good conscience encourage members to vote Yes for a 2% wage offer. Nor can we support the lowering of medication allowance from \$4.70 per hour to 90c per hour. Therefore, it can come as little surprise that the HSU is encouraging members to vote No.

The communication also spruiked other benefits such as an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), salary packaging, paid parental leave, and a few others. As many members who have worked elsewhere would know, things like salary packaging are offered at most not-for-profits. Likewise, most employers have EAP. This benefit will remain whether you vote Yes or No, so don't be distracted by this. The other claim made by management is that they are one of the leading payers in the sector. We have already debunked this claim in previous communications.

### **Why it's important to vote**

At the time of your last Enterprise Agreement, Catholic Healthcare had around 2600 staff. Only around 600 of these staff voted, with around 350 voting Yes. Workers on awards all over the country do not get the opportunity to vote on their conditions like you do. HSU encourages you to make sure you vote. **This vote will affect your take-home pay and working conditions for the next three years.** So don't let this opportunity go by without having your say.

### **What happens if the agreement is voted down?**

Should the agreement be voted down, you will remain on your current conditions until a new agreement is voted up. In other words, current conditions like the \$4.70 an hour medication allowance will continue. However, you will not get a wage rise. The HSU will consult with you, the members, to look into the reasons why you voted No and report that back to Catholic Healthcare.

The HSU remains committed to a bargaining in good faith and representing your views at the bargaining table. The Log of Claims we took to the table was a direct result of the surveys you completed at the beginning of this process. These are your claims.

### **Speak to your colleagues**

Any colleagues of yours that are not yet union members won't receive this communication unless you share it with them, so they are not getting both sides of the story. This is yet another benefit of being a union member.

At the end of the day, it's your workplace and your conditions. You need to take responsibility for them. If you know someone who is not yet a member of the HSU, encourage them to join online at [www.hsu.asn.au/join](http://www.hsu.asn.au/join), or call the Union on 1300 478 679. We are stronger together.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerard Hayes  
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD