

Uniting Update

Dear Member,

Yesterday HSU representatives attended the Uniting Peak Consultative Council.

Here's a summary of the key agenda items.

Annual Leave - 5th week: Eligible members would have received their additional annual leave owing. This came about after HSU members discovered that some shift workers hadn't received their full leave entitlements. We now know over 1,200 current employees and 800 former employers have now been affected by this.

Yesterday HSU representatives questioned the calculations and have asked for the method used by Uniting. Some members questioned their amounts. The HSU will pass on this to members. In the meantime, if you have a query about your annual leave amount contact the Uniting Employee Experience Line. You can also contact agedcare@hsu.asn.au.

Workplace Surveillance: Uniting confirmed that it had completed its review of CCTV cameras. Two cameras remain within Uniting workplaces, and these aren't directed at staff areas but at lockers. If you are concerned about cameras in your workplace, please contact your local HSU representative or organiser.

The Home Maker Model: Uniting continues to roll out the new model of care with over half now operational or undertaking training. Members continue to raise concerns about the workload pressures. The new Model will certainly need to be raised in bargaining and members' new roles recognised as a result.

Occupational Violence Policy: Uniting has now sent a draft policy to Senior Managers. It is anticipated that the policy will go to employees in January for consultation. Though it's important to get this policy right the fact one doesn't already exist is concerning. Members are encouraged to participate in the consultation process to ensure that your safety concerns are central to the policy.

WHS: We have requested a breakdown by workplace of the WHS reporting lines. We will forward this to members.

Uniting also reported on a number of new tenders it had won. There was also an update on the Parkwood Palliative Care Service.

If there are any issues you want raised at the PCC, or you would like to be involved with the PCC, please email agedcare@hsu.asn.au.

If you know someone who wants to raise an issue or have a say at work and they aren't a HSU member, encourage them to join online at www.hsu.asn.au/join or phone 1300 478 679.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the delegates and members who worked hard in 2019 to ensure that workers at Uniting had a say about their issues at work. It will be a big 2020 as we head into bargaining, but I know that HSU members will be united and up for the task.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Hayes', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD