



Southern Queensland Branch News

16th September 2009

WORKCOVER

The *Branch News* have reported numerous articles associated with Workcover, which have been repeated on several occasions over a number of years.

In the last few months we have had two employers (one in towage and the other in stevedoring) seek to introduce policies in relation to incidents/injuries sustained at the workplace which seek to compel the workers to attend on/to Company appointed medical practitioners.

The Branch sought legal advice in relation to these latest projected policy changes and were advised:

“Whilst an employer may legitimately require attendance at a qualified practitioner such as a Doctor or Occupational Therapist for the purposes of rehabilitation and return to work process, they have no legal power to compel a worker to see their practitioners only i.e. instead of the worker’s own doctor/s.”

Members should be aware that lodging an Incident report in accordance with the Policy at the respective workplace, usually leads to a less complicated approval of the Workcover claim.

It is also timely to reiterate our previous advice that irrespective if the claim is lodged at the Doctor’s surgery or with the Company in the first instance, that members should **attend** the Union office to either provide copies of their Workcover claim and/or complete the application in the Union rooms.

This allows for the member to also complete a standard form that allows the MUA to act as an agent for the member (due to privacy legislation).

It also allows for the member to have solace in that fact that all records associated with Workcover remains on the member’s file.

Any queries in relation the above should be directed to the Branch office.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

POAGS The Branch has made a 739 Application to Fair Work Australia (FWA) to seek their assistance in settling a dispute with POAGS regarding FSE numbers and applicable rates of pay for certain duties and functions. The Application was lodged on 8th September and the matter listed for 21st September, a date stated to FWA that Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday would be unavailable. An adjournment was sought and the matter is re-listed for 3pm Monday 28th September.

SKILLED A protected action ballot has been lodged as a result of an impasse in negotiations. A further meeting will be held in Sydney on Thursday 17th September. Skilled delegates Shaun Bolton and Brett Stokes will attend together with Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday.

EC STEVEDORES This Agreement has been completed and is with National Office to ensure its compliance with the Fair Work Act 2009 before going to the membership for a vote.

PATRICK PORT SERVICES The Branch has sought a mutually convenient time and date from Patrick’s National Management in order to commence negotiations for a replacement collective Agreement.

QUEENSLAND NOT FOR SALE

The Courier Mail this week produced an article in relation to a Poll of 800 voters with the overwhelming number of those polled, approx. 85% being against the sale of publically owned assets.

The Trade Union Movement will need to continuously campaign to seek to have Bligh overturn this senseless position.

The Branch has continued to attend Queensland Council of Unions Meetings held fortnightly with Branch Secretary Mick Carr attending the Co-ordinator's meeting and Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday attending the Working Group Committee.

Unions now have been allotted State seats to campaign in, with the MUA being allotted Lytton, because of its geographical location which encompasses the Port of Brisbane.

At an initial stage, we will be in attendance at the **Fete at the Wynnum Workers Club Oval on Saturday 10th October**. Any members who can assist on Saturday 10th October, please advise the Branch Office.

This Fete is being organised by "Bikers Against Child Abuse" and we have been allotted space to hand out flyers, talk to the public, etc.

The Branch is in the process of updating the campaign trailer from the YR@W theme to the *Queensland Not For Sale* theme.

MUA DELEGATION TO IRELAND

A MUA delegation will attend an ITF Global Networks Terminal meeting 21-23 September. The delegation will also attend picket lines where SIPTU members engaged by Peel Ports have now been on strike for 10 weeks.

Scabs have been engaged and Peel Ports has taken legal action against a number of officials and members of the Union. In the meantime, the Dublin City Council carried the following resolution:

'Dublin City Council is deeply concerned at the lengthy dispute between Marine Terminals Limited and SIPTU in Dublin Port. This dispute has resulted in pickets being placed on port installations by the workers, who are opposed to the unilateral imposition of mass redundancies and cuts in pay and conditions by management. The dispute is now in its tenth week and MTL has exacerbated the situation by seeking a number of injunctions in the High Court against the workers, trade union leaders and members of the local community. The company's refusal to engage in full industrial relations procedures has aggravated the situation and severely damaged trade in Dublin Port. We therefore call on the Dublin Port Company, as the landlord of the facility and provider of essential services, to use all of the power at its disposal to persuade MTL to engage meaningfully with the workers and SIPTU in order to bring the dispute to a satisfactory and speedy resolution. We further call on the Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Ms. Mary Coughlin, to ensure her Department and the dispute resolution machinery of the state deploy all their resources to help achieve this objective, including ensuring that MTL complies fully with the employment law of this state.'

Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday and P. Bruekers will represent the S.Q. Branch at the ITF meetings and solidarity visits; participating in the Peel Ports (Marine Terminals Ltd) picket.

TRAINING COURSES

Members interested in attending a training course should register at the Branch Office.

- Level 1: Core skills for Delegates and Activists
- Level 2: Intermediate specialised modules/courses (stand alone unless pre-requisite indicated).
- Level 3: Advanced – Work place Union leaders
- Level 4: Member education (5 day stand alone) and/or link to member organising program.

Depending on numbers and time frames, the Branch will seek to hold a course between now and December. Branch phone – 3395 7215, fax: 3395 7688, email: muasqld@mua.org.au

Authorised by Mick Carr, Branch Secretary and Trevor Munday, Deputy Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Aust.
SQ Branch, 73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill Q. 4170 Ph: 3395 7215 Fax: 3395 7688 Email: muasqld@mua.org.au