



# Industrial Data Sheet

Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union - Manufacturing Membership

Our members design, innovate, manufacture, test and maintain. They also plan, manage and administer.

APS959/2488  
15<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

## DEFENCE PROTECTED ACTION BALLOT SUCCESSFUL

A ballot of the AMWU's members in Defence has been conducted over recent weeks to determine whether or not members may take protected industrial action against the Department.

A similar ballot of the members of Professionals Australia was also conducted.

The questions asked by the two unions were identical.

### Results

The percentage of AMWU members who returned their votes on time did not reflect the level of interest taken in the ballot, a significant number of members contacting the union to advise that they had not received their voting materials. The union is unable to explain why, it having notified the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) of the addresses to which it normally posts materials to the members concerned.

It may be of note that, upon advice from the AEC of difficulties it had recently been experiencing with Australia Post, the original ballot period was extended by 19 days.

Notwithstanding the lower than anticipated return, those members who cast a formal vote overwhelmingly endorsed the various types of action on which they were balloted. Support for nine of the questions exceeded 93%, with the highest level being 97%. The level of support registered for the one remaining question was 87.6%.

Professionals Australia was also successful in its ballot, with all 10 questions being heavily supported.

### What's Next?

As previously advised, the ballot does **not** mean that you will necessarily engage in all (or even any) of the forms of industrial action which were endorsed. It **does** mean that those forms of action are now legally available to you **should you and your colleagues choose** to engage in them.

**The AMWU and Professionals Australia have convened a national telephone hook-up of their delegates for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to consider the ballot results and discuss the next steps.**

**Maintain close contact with your local AMWU delegate and Organiser.**

None of this would have been necessary had Defence (under direction from the Abbott Government) not treated its workforce so poorly in negotiations.

TB5.848

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