



# Queensland Branch News



10<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## COMPARISON

Is there a fair and objective process that applies in this country to workers who are engaged under Enterprise Agreements which determine their respective rates of pay, when compared with Queensland State Politicians and as a flow-on effect, Local Councillors in this State.

To expand on this, are there accountabilities in place for management of National and/or multi-National Companies that we deal with?

There are the lines for comparison – State Parliamentarians on the lowest remuneration level (back-benchers) to receive a \$57,000 annual pay increase. (This subject matter is fluid). 14,000 Public Servants jettisoned from their workplace and a continual *shit-fight* for Unions representing those Public Servants and for that matter, workers who provide essential services to receive anything more than a 2% pay rise.

The same frustration is close to home for us. The Townsville Port Authority where both the MUA and the AMOU have Agreements with a nominal expiry date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, have not commenced bargaining for a replacement Agreement, even after it has reached its nominal expiry day.

Why? Because Townsville Port Authority assert that Government approval needs to be granted for negotiations to commence under the Enterprise Bargaining framework. Further, it needs to be endorsed by the Public Sector Commission, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Transport and Main Roads and Treasury. Once those approvals have been enacted, final approval then needs to be granted by the Cabinet Budget Review Committee.

Then and only then, is Townsville Port Authority willing to engage in negotiations. The AMOU has made an application with the MUA joining the application under S.240 of the Act.

The LNP Government on 5<sup>th</sup> June pushed through Parliament the following Bill “Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) and other Acts Amendment Bill 2013. The Legislation in part requires Unions and Employer Organisations (not individual companies) to provide and have policies to:

- Conduct a ballot of members where spending for political purposes exceeds \$10,000.
- Have a raft of policies in place regarding financial spending associated with Credit Cards, Cab Charges, where hospitality is accepted or provided.

The MUA has always within our Annual financial Report provided full disclosure regarding the earnings of Officers of the Union.

Likewise all our member’s earnings, or at least the relevant rates of pay are contained within public documents i.e. any person from the public can access the industrial instruments that we are partyed to by going to the Fair work Commission website.

Do Corporations have the same obligations that Unions have; do Managers and Directors have to divulge to the people that they purport to represent (shareholders) their full level of remuneration, any possible bonus they received based on coming in under budget or reductions in lost time injuries.

Perhaps Shareholders should have the same disclosure that the Queensland Government has legislated on Unions, that would be real objective transparency.

After all, in any Enterprise Agreement negotiation or other negotiation of an industrial nature, no employer that the MUA has dealt with has come to the bargaining table and said “*we have had a good year with high profit levels and good return on investments and are willing to share the wealth with employees.*”

I suggest none of our members would want to or should hold their breath and wait for this to occur.

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# ANNUAL UNION DUES FOR TAX PURPOSES

Statements advising of the amount of Union dues paid for the year ending 30/06/2013 are in the process of being posted and should be completed this week. It is important to note the "Paid To" date on the statement as this indicates your financial status. Please call the MUA office to query any discrepancy or if you require the amount of Union dues beforehand.

Already we have some returned mail, therefore it is important to keep us informed of your current address. If you haven't received your Financial Statement by the end of the month, contact the Branch.

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## PUBLIC COMMENT OPENS FOR NSCOP YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED

Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith and National Education and Safety Officer Matt Goodwin report that right now we need to generate a massive amount of public comment in favour of the code.

The MUA has made a public submission calling for Safe Work Australia to approve the code. All MUA members, wives, husbands, family, and concerned members of the community are encouraged to sign the MUA submission. We have a very short window to get as many names as possible.

A dedicated campaign website has been established [www.nscop4life.org.au](http://www.nscop4life.org.au).

To support the MUA submission, go to [www.nscop4life.org.au](http://www.nscop4life.org.au) and follow the links. There is also a hard copy version that delegates can distribute in workplaces.

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## VALIDITY AND REVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES

To all Seafarers, this is a reminder about the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Marine Notice concerning validity and revalidation of certificates.

A number of changes have been made to the validity and revalidation of certificates. All seafarers must hold a security awareness endorsement by December 2016 but are eligible to gain this endorsement by gaining recognition of sea service. This sea service recognition must be applied for BEFORE DECEMBER 2013

Notice to all seafarers regarding Validity and Revalidation of Certificates which outlines the continued competence requirements to revalidate a certificate beyond 31 December 2016.

One of a number of new requirements, is for all seafarers (Masters, Deck Officers, Engineer Officers, Ratings (Deck and Engine Room) and holders of Certificates of Safety Training - COST) to hold a Security Awareness endorsement. If a seafarer does not hold the endorsement their certificate will not be valid after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

The Notice is available on the MUA website which should be self explanatory – [www.mua.org.au](http://www.mua.org.au)

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## ANNUAL LEAVE

Branch Secretary Mick Carr is currently on 2 weeks annual leave and will return to work on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday will commence leave on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September for 3 weeks.

Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Sheehan will take leave commencing on 25<sup>th</sup> September for 2 weeks.

Bruce Doleman is currently the relieving Official and can be contacted on 0413 755156,

Relief officials will be established for the periods of leave as mentioned and made known to the membership prior to that leave commencing.

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