



Queensland Branch News



17 October 2013

WORKERS COMPENSATION

The latest *Branch News* contained a number of predictions associated with the Work Cover review by the LNP Government.

One such prediction was that the Annual General Report, once tabled, would in fact show the healthy financial state of the Queensland Scheme. A profit of \$517 million certainly gives ample scope for premiums to be lower for employees **WITHOUT** restricting access to Common Law.

The *Courier Mail* on Tuesday 15 October 2013 contained a report on proposed changes. A component of the changes will be that injured workers will be denied access to Common Law unless their injuries are assessed to be on a 5% threshold.

Journey claims however will stay. There have been a myriad of our members that have had their employment terminated over the years after sustaining work related injuries, based on their employers mantra that they are unable to “fulfil the inherent requirements of their contract of employment.” In a number of circumstances, those members had an injury threshold of less than 5%.

All employers, of course wish and in certain circumstances will have injured workers back at the work place. Many would have them participate in return to work in their hospital beds. However, once a member’s injury has been assessed as “stationary and stable” or “has reached maximum medical improvement,” the Jeckyll and Hyde syndrome of employers is activated providing alternative duties whilst a claim is active (reduce premiums).

The claim is finalised, employers state we have a “duty of care”; we are concerned that you will re-injure yourself; therefore we will need to terminate your employment.

Members may think that the issues mentioned above are somewhat melodramatic. It is, however based on **FACT** and can be substantiated with each of the four longstanding Stevedoring employers in the Brisbane area.

At the same time two employers have vehemently fought against the National Stevedoring Code of Practice. A Code designed to enhance safety in the Stevedoring Industry, thus curtailing work place injuries. Members, it may unfortunately be you that is injured at work.

We should not have any changes to Workers Compensation in the State. Please take the opportunity to participate in the rally as per the flyer distributed with this Branch News.

MARITIME SUPER SEMINAR REMINDER

DATE: Monday 21 October 2013
TIME: 10.30am-12.00pm
LOCATION: MUA Brisbane – 73 Southgate Ave, Cannon Hill
PRESENTED BY: Peter Robertson (Chief Executive Officer) Sharon McNeill (Marketing and Member Services Manager) Chris Kotsiofis (Financial Planning Manager) Jim Atley (Financial Planner) – light refreshments supplied.

THANKS TO RELIEF OFFICIALS

The MUA Queensland Branch would like to thank Mick Lang and Paul Williams for their Official relief duties to cover National Council and annual leave. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

PICNIC DAY ACTIVITIES

DATE: Tuesday 5 November 2013 (Melbourne Cup Day)
TIME: 9.00am Onwards
VENUE: The Plantation, 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale

RACES FOR ALL

NOVELTY EVENTS

FUN FOR ALL

Morning tea and lunch provided - lollies, ice-cream, drinks. Train rides, super swing, merry-go-round, kids crazy convoy, face painting, jumping castle, giant slide, swimming pools, tennis courts, beach volley ball.

The Picnic Day is one of the social events that MUA members can participate in with their families. Let's make this Picnic Day enjoyable – as always. Members who can assist with set-up, please assemble at 6.30am at the Plantation.

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Trade Unions are the voice for workers and their main principles include improving conditions for themselves and for society. As a natural extension of this, the MUA is fully supporting the White Ribbon Campaign that seeks to stop violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign links into the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, originally launched by a group of men in Canada after the brutal mass shooting of 14 female students at the University of Montreal.

We all have women in our lives that we love and wouldn't want to see subjected to violence. However, one in three women will experience partner violence.

With only 20% of abuse cases being reported, there are over 3500 convictions recorded against men each year for assaults on women.

White Ribbon is officially recognised as a symbol of hope for a world where women and girls can live free from the fear of violence. The goal is to challenge the acceptability of violence by getting men involved, helping women to break the silence and encouraging everyone to come together to build a better world for all.

The MUA intends to spread the White Ribbon message that violence towards women is never acceptable and that men can be part of the solution to ending such violence. Here are a few simple things that MUA members can do to support the campaign, whether you are on a ship, on the wharf or at home.

Take the online pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence towards women and to challenge sexist, violent, emotional or verbal behaviour by speaking up about it.

DELEGATES 2 TRAINING COURSE

A Delegates 2 Training Course will be held for 2 days in late November 2013. Please register your details with the Branch if you are interested in attending.
