

### **Industries with high rates of workplace fatalities**

In 2009-10, around 80% of workplace fatalities occurred in the goods producing industry.

The five industries with the highest number of work-related fatality in 2009-10 were Construction (28 deaths), Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (26 deaths), Manufacturing (15), Transport and Storage (14) and Mining (6).

While the Construction industry witnessed the highest number of deaths during this period, the highest fatality rate was recorded in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry. In 2009-10, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry had a fatality rate of 6.9 (deaths per 100 thousand workers in that industry) with 26 workers and 1 bystander suffering from a fatal injury.

#### **ANMF – Hidden Cost of your Healthcare**

There are hidden costs in the production and procurement of medical goods by Australian companies and the public sector: mounting evidence shows that there is a high occurrence of labour and human rights abuses in the production of goods such as gloves, surgical instruments, clothing, footwear and electronics. The production of these healthcare goods is tainted by hazardous working conditions, labour exploitation, child labour and other abuses.

The existence of human rights abuses in medical goods supply chains has implications for Australian healthcare companies and public procurement, as the health and well-being of

Australians should not come at the cost of the abuse and exploitation of workers in low-wage countries. Australian healthcare companies that produce or procure these items, as well as government, healthcare organisations and end-users, have the power and the responsibility to protect workers in the medical goods supply chains.

Although the healthcare sector constitutes the fourth largest ASX industry and includes businesses that produce goods such as gloves and healthcare electronics, as well as procuring companies such as aged-care providers, specialised healthcare services, and companies that retail pharmaceuticals, the Australian healthcare industry is not doing enough to address the human rights

risks in its operations and supply chains.

The Do No Harm Report has uncovered that while most healthcare manufacturers show that they are aware of their human rights impacts, their policies often do not address critical areas such freedom of association, sourcing of raw materials, vulnerability of migrant workers and access to remediation.

Among procuring healthcare companies, only two out of ten have established and disclosed a supply chain or sourcing policy, while other ASX-listed healthcare procurers neglect to publicly address the human rights impacts of their business



neglect to publicly address the human rights impacts of their business activities.

The report examines Australian publicly listed manufacturers Ansell, Lochlear, Fisher and Paykel, Nanosonics and Resmed. None of the companies have published policies on rights of migrant workers, the use of labour hire companies, recruitment fees, written payslips and confiscation of passports. The report also examines publicly listed companies that provide healthcare goods including; Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, Estia Health, Healthscope, Japara Healthcare, Primary Health Care, Ramsay Health Care, Regis Healthcare, Sigma Pharmaceuticals, Sonic Healthcare, Virtus Health.

**MEAA – Vote of no confidence in News Corp management**

2017-04-12 17:44:36

This resolution was carried unanimously by News Corp editorial staff in Brisbane at a meeting today:

“This meeting of editorial employees in Brisbane moves a Vote of No Confidence in senior national News Corp management.

Yesterday (April 11) staff were told there would be a restructure of the business, including photography and production, that would result in significant numbers of staff being made redundant.

Staff at Bowen Hills question senior national management’s ability to build an economically viable company.

Management’s continuing answer to economic pressures is to reduce staff numbers and jeopardise the quality of the product.

On a daily basis we see our masthead’s paywall breached by news.com.au and other News Corp mastheads.

We are yet to see any business innovation that turns the online model into a paying model and believe senior management needs to identify to staff the business plan to

increase revenue beyond staff cost cutting.

Our decision today is made on behalf of our communities. We are prepared to work differently, learn news skills and to be innovative but not at the cost of quality or our own health.

Our readers rely on the work of our photographers to tell the story in pictures that define the story. They rely on the work of our production staff, artists, subs, designers to ensure the story is delivered accurately and across a variety of mediums.

We are appalled that across Queensland we have worked to build our online presence and connect to our markets but we are still unable to maintain a paywall or deliver papers in some regional areas before 11am.

Senior News Corp management needs to be held accountable for its poor business decisions, lack of vision and inability to consult with their employees.

We call on management to engage in constructive consultation with staff that includes a full understanding of the business model and allows for real feedback on areas where the model is failing.

We call on management to commence this consultation before any decision to further downsize editorial staff numbers is enacted.

We call on management for a response by Wednesday, April 19 2017.”

**Land Titles Registry sale a disaster for millions in NSW**

Apr 12, 2017  
PSA Media release:

The NSW Government decision to lease the 150 year old Land Titles Registry to Hastings Funds Management and First State Super is a recipe for disaster for millions of property owners across NSW said the Public Service Association (PSA).

“It is hands down, the most appalling fire sale decision yet by a Government with a strong track

record in that area”, said PSA General Secretary, Stewart Little. “The Government trumpets its efforts on ‘life-changing projects’ but what could be more life changing for millions of people across NSW than to lose the security on their own property?

“Just as the PSA feared all along, ultimately the personal property records of the people in NSW will be held offshore given a portion of the successful consortium is based in London.”

Currently, the Government provides insurance and security of property titles. But now the Registry has been sold to a private operator, individual land owners may be forced to take out insurance to guard against unscrupulous property developers or fraud.

“These super companies will be out to turn a profit for their members,” Mr Little said.

“In recent times, Registry costs to the consumer have increased by 300%, just to fatten the company for sale and it will only get worse.

“How on earth can the Premier call this a win win situation?

“Selling a critical Government function that has such an enormous bearing on the economy and the lives of every land and property owner in NSW is nothing short of ideology gone mad.

“Academics, former senior staff, community groups, major newspapers, property developers and even prominent members of the Liberal Party have all joined the PSA in condemning the idea.”

**ACTU – Rejection of Target Proof Workplace System Broken**

7 April 2017

The rejection of a joint claim in the Fair Work Commission (FWC) for a medium term minimum wage target shows the workplace relations system is broken and skewed towards employers and not working people.

A full bench of the FWC today handed down a decision to dismiss claims from United Voice, the ACTU, Australian Council of Social Services and the Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations that would have set a medium-term minimum wage target.

The medium term target was proposed in 2016 from United Voice, with the support of the ACTU, to address the decline in the ratio of minimum wages to average earnings.

The ACTU argued the FWC should consider setting a medium term target for the national weekly minimum wage to reach 60% of median earnings in four years. The minimum wage is currently 44.8% of average weekly ordinary time earnings at just \$672.70 per week or \$17.70 per hour.

The Turnbull Government and employer groups were unanimous in their opposition to the target.

**Quotes attributable to ACTU President Ged Kearney:**

“This is a disappointing outcome for a claim that could have given clear direction for the Commission in coming years in ascertaining future increases to the minimum wage.”

“Our workplace relations system is supposed to work to deliver fair decisions for working people. There is something broken when the system delivers a verdict that dismisses the concept of future-proofing wage rises for Australia’s lowest paid workers.”

“A four-year target would have seen weekly earnings rise to more than \$860 by 2020 and helped closed the gap on rising inequality in Australia.”

“Australian wage growth has ground to a halt under the Turnbull Government, which goes out of its



way to push workers further down the food chain in order for big corporations to make fatter profits.” “We will not give up our fight for greater equality for working people and will rigorously argue for a \$45 a week increase in the forthcoming minimum wage case.”

**MUA-CFMEU Inaugural Branch Conference Kicks Off In WA**

Posted by Communications Team on April 04, 2017

The MUA and CFMEU will formally open their first combined conference in Western Australia today as they bring together union members and leaders, not only from across the country but around the world.

Speakers include ACTU Secretary Sally McManus, MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin, CFMEU National Secretary Michael O’Connor, TCFUA National Secretary Michele O’Neil, ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow and ILWU International President Bob McEllrath.

MUA WA Branch Secretary Christy Cain said the conference was a reminder to members of all unions to stand up and fight back, particularly after recent law changes such as the ABCC and Building Code from the blatantly anti-union Turnbull Federal Government.

“It is important to understand the history of our unions, how we got here and what makes our unions’ fighting culture so well recognized within the movement and the community.

“The MUA and CFMEU have both come from a long line of amalgamated unions and the planned merger is merely the next step in our path. This is about knowing the past and owning the future,” Cain said.

CFMEU WA Branch Secretary Mick Buchan said that in the current tough climate for unions it was important to stand up and fight back.

“Both of our unions have never taken a backwards step when it comes to

standing up for decent pay and conditions and safety on the job for our members,” Buchan said.

Both unions have this week embraced Progressive Labour in WA in order to best represent union members.

“As unions we believe that the needs of our members must always be our first priority,” the statement from Progressive Labour says.

**“For our members we seek well paid, secure and safe employment, dignity and security in retirement, and the ability to participate as full citizens of our society. These are proper and worthy goals for which to strive.**

**“As proud unionists, we pay respect to the generations of men and women who went before us in the union movement and who helped to create an equitable and prosperous society.**

**“We believe that unions have a fundamental role to play in ensuring that society continues to uphold the values of equity, respect and tolerance.**

**“We also believe that Unions, through their work in raising wages and conditions, contribute to a vibrant middle class and as a result, a fairer and more powerful economy.”**

**JOIN BMUC** Blue Mountains residents can become BMUC members if they support our Aims and Objects. Membership is open to union members, to retired unionists and to those who are unemployed or unwaged.

Membership Fees  
Waged \$15.00 pa  
Unwaged \$5.00 pa

BMUC Secretary  
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**Palm Sunday Rally  
NSWTF 4 April 2017**

For many people facing violence and oppression in their home countries, fleeing to another country in search of refuge is their only hope for keeping themselves and their families alive.

As public school teachers, we see the effect that such traumatic experiences have on the families and children who have so far made it into our classrooms and communities. Federation believes that mandatory detention is not only an unfair and unjust way to treat refugees, but is cruel to those who legally seek our protection. Federation has long been proud advocates for refugee's rights in society. It is why we endorse and support the Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees.

In the 12 months since last year's Palm Sunday rally, however, the political climate towards refugees – and indeed immigration in general – has taken on an increasingly hard edge. This has been highlighted in the anti-refugee and anti-immigration sentiment that surrounded Brexit in the UK, and the election of Donald Trump in the USA, as well as in the rise of many hard-right nationalist political parties around Europe and the resurgence of One Nation here in Australia.

For the hundreds of people still locked in Australia's off shore detention centres this creates greater uncertainty, as the deal to settle 1250 refugees in the United States is now jeopardised by the blatantly anti-refugee, anti-Muslim and anti-immigration policies being pursued by the new President. While Malcolm Turnbull claims that the United States will still honour the deal, Trump's belligerent behaviour makes this seem ever more doubtful.

Even if the deal to resettle those found to be illegally detained on Manus and Nauru is honoured, it includes a cap of 1250, leaving over

one thousand more in detention with uncertain futures. While they wait in uncertainty, we hear more stories of abuse, lack of suitable medical care, mental health concerns and even deaths as the result of the harsh conditions these refugees and asylum seekers are subjected to.

Community action on refugees can be powerful and can influence political outcomes. This was evidenced by the recent #LetThemStay protests across Australia, halting the proposed return of 267 refugees to the Manus and Nauru camps. Community support rallying behind doctors and hospital workers in Brisbane, who refused to discharge baby Asha to be returned to Nauru, also resulted in a more positive outcome for Asha. Mojgan's story, along with many other examples, have highlighted the community's growing support for the fair and decent treatment for those seeking our protection.

This year's Palm Sunday Rally continues the strong and growing community action, calling for those people being held in offshore detention to be brought to Australia and treated with the humanity and compassion that all people deserve.

On April 9, join with other Unions, community groups and concerned citizens to call for the just and fair treatment of people in detention.

**Central Coast deserves better than 300 job cuts and slashed vital services says union PSA  
Media release:**

The NSW Government has slashed 300 public sector jobs on the Central Coast, with the privatisation of Disability Services and Out Of Home Care now also eating away at the community said the Public Service Association (PSA).

"This is a Government that just builds roads, not communities or a society," said PSA General Secretary, Stewart Little.

"The Central Coast is out of sight and out of mind as far as this Government is concerned with the highest rate of vulnerable children in Out Of Home Care of all FACS districts in the state."

"The Government's ongoing privatisation agenda is setting up the Central Coast to fail spectacularly."

"If the Government really wants to make a difference to the lives of the people of NSW, it should urgently rethink the catastrophic plan to privatise the Land Titles Registry, a move condemned by everyone from academics to property developers and pull back from the forced transfer of state disability services."

"What could be more life changing for tens of thousands of families than to have the care of loved ones with disability thrown into free fall after the Government completely steps away from that space?"

"NSW will be the only state in Australia with no Government safety net for people with disability."

"On the Central Coast alone, that will impact on 2,735 clients."

"This is a Government that washes its hands of all social responsibility whether it's starving the world class TAFE system of funds while throwing millions at dodgy private providers or pushing vulnerable kids into a non-Government Out of Home Care system and then reading the horror stories in the media."

