

Summary of the Together Council meeting **17 July 2012**

Together Council met on Tuesday 17 July 2012. In attendance were the President, Secretary, the two Assistant Secretaries, the Minutes Secretary, delegates, and observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

The meeting was chaired by President Vivienne Doogan who acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Turrbul and Yuggera peoples.

Life Membership – Jim Gannon

Longstanding member and activist Jim Gannon, of Queensland Health, received his life membership award in a presentation by delegate Peter Cattach.

Union elections

Council delegates were briefed on the process for union elections. The election is being administered by the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ). For details on the process you can visit www.ecq.qld.gov.au

Collective campaigning and the public sector

Delegates discussed the current collective bargaining campaigns and dealing with the state government's attacks on the public sector.

The President briefed delegates on the strategies put in place since 2004 to build our organizing and campaigning capacity and on our planning for a hostile government. These strategies included the establishment of the Public Sector Defence Fund and the New Strength Unity Fund; the creation of the bargaining team; the workplace leaders program; amalgamation between the QPSU and ASU and the 2012 Committee's work.

After discussion delegates voted to make available funds to the Working for Queenslanders campaign to \$750,000 with Executive authorised to increase the fund if required.

The priorities for the campaign are:

- **protecting members' jobs and opposing any forced retrenchments**
- **campaign for fair and reasonable wages, conditions and workloads**
- **promote and protect the provision of quality public services**

Council delegates also asked the government to abandon the false and arbitrary distinction between frontline and non-frontline public sector workers.

Among the industrial agreements discussed were the Core EB and the Medical Officers EB.

Corporate governance

A discussion ensued about ensuring that Together's corporate governance and accountability mechanisms are best practice. This discussion will be continued at the next Council meeting.