

Summary of the Together Council meeting
31 March 2014

Together Council met on Monday 31 March 2014. In attendance were the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, delegates, and observers. Council met at the Mercure Hotel, North Quay Brisbane.

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

Award stripping and Our Rights and Conditions – Here to Stay!

Delegates received a briefing on the government's program of award modernisation and the response by union members and delegates. The campaign to protect rights and conditions from being removed by the government's attacks is called Our Rights and Conditions – Here to Stay! Delegates were briefed by the President on the strategy for this campaign and where it can go.

Keep Our Doctors dispute

Assistant Secretary Kate Flanders provided a briefing on the campaign by doctors in Queensland's public hospitals resisting the government's attempts to impose grossly unfair individual contracts.

Legislative changes and the Social Services Investment Framework

The Secretary briefed delegates on the government's legislative changes affecting public servants since being elected in March 2012. Council delegates declared the union's official position on the Social Services Investment Framework by formal motion. The principles are:

- Social services require proper investment in order to provide the best outcomes for Queenslanders ;
- It is the responsibility of government to ensure appropriate services are provided to protect the most vulnerable members of our society;
- Contestability is not the appropriate framework to apply when making investment decisions in social services, because the value and long term benefits are difficult to easily quantify

- These services are vital to securing the future prosperity of Queensland, including the individual benefits for the most vulnerable members of our community;
- Since the Newman government was elected there have been significant cuts and de-funding of both governmental and nongovernment social service providers and this is having a negative impact on the ability of service providers to deliver positive outcomes for Queenslanders;
- Affected members, as well as the broader community, will be encouraged to voice their concerns about the government's approach to investment in the social services sector through participation in the government's online survey.

Reports and governance matters

Council delegates voted to receive reports relating to corporate governance, and union membership. Council also received a report relating to the union's lease at 27 Peel Street. Council voted to endorse the President's report on rules changes and postal ballots.

Financial matters

Together financial statements were received by the meeting. Council delegates endorsed the conduct of a postal ballot to set the membership fees for the 2014/2015 financial year.

President

Council delegates voted to revise the remuneration for the President to be in line with that of the Assistant Secretaries for the remainder of the current term.

Council meeting dates and Annual General Meeting

After discussion Council delegates supported a motion to investigate holding a Council meeting on a Monday or a Friday in June 2014 subject to the availability of a suitable venue, and agreed to meet on Friday 12 September 2014 at the Mercure Hotel, North Quay.

Council delegates voted to set the date of the 2014 Together AGM on Friday 28 November 2014 at 5:30pm at a venue to be determined by Executive.

Council Committees

Council delegates voted to authorise the holding of a ballot of delegates to fill casual vacancies on a number of Council Committees.