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## ***Uniting Church – does it really care for it's workers?***

**Allied Health (Together members) and Administration staff (ASU) across a number of Uniting Church work sites have been feeling the brunt of what appears to be an uncaring employer.**

Together and ASU Delegates from UnitingCare Health, BlueCare and Wesley Mission have met to discuss their concerns with a number of ongoing disputes across the organisation.

ASU Delegates have fought and won Scope Orders in their bargaining efforts for a replacement Agreement in Administration for the UnitingCare Health hospitals. Yet management are not interested in positively resolving the outstanding issues from the last Agreement which has seen the Union take the employers to Fair Work Commission to seek assistance in this dispute over their classification structure.

Why have they had to fight so long and hard for things which a caring and just employer would deliver to staff who do their best for both their employer and the clients?

ASU and Together Delegates are negotiating replacement Agreements at BlueCare/Wesley Mission. For Administration staff they have, just like their colleagues at UC hospital sites had to fight for the right to have a stand-alone agreement – this fight goes on.

ASU Admin members at BlueCare have also had to resort to lodging dispute notices with Fair Work in order to ensure that the organisation genuinely consults with the Union when restructuring, downsizing and relocating services. Members have the right to ensure that their best interests are represented and if management will not engage in the manner in which members believe they should, then such disputes will continue to rise in the Commission.

Allied Health members at BlueCare/Wesley Mission, just like their colleagues at UC hospitals don't ask too much, but they do ask for genuine recognition of their need for time and financial assistance to ensure their professional development continues to enable them to provide the best care to clients. Management say no.

Together and ASU Delegates have met jointly to discuss what they believe is a targeted approach by management to reduce conditions and limited wages across the organisation as a whole. This approach is not what Delegates believe the organisation genuinely believes. They have agreed to take a radical approach and seek a meeting with the CEO Ms Ann Cross, to see if they can find out why management appear to be acting the way they are.

Delegates have called for a meeting with the CEO and once that meeting has occurred, Delegates will relay feedback to members and we can hope that at either the negotiating table or the disputes round table, that genuine consideration and reasonable outcomes will be delivered for Together/ASU members across Uniting Church work sites.

You can join online today at: [www.qld.asu.net.au](http://www.qld.asu.net.au) and click '**Join**' in the top menu bar or phone the union office on 1800 177 244.