

## **Summary of the Together Council meeting** **27 March 2012**

Together Council met on Tuesday 27 March 2012. In attendance were the President, Secretary, the two Assistant Secretaries, the Minutes Secretary, 180 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.

### **State election results and implications**

An extensive discussion took place about the state election, the union's Building Blocks campaign, and what direction the union would take following the change of government.

Council endorsed a community campaign called "Working for Queenslanders" to promote the public's understanding and support of the work undertaken by Together members in the public sector, funded by the public sector defence fund.

Delegates also endorsed a complimentary industrial campaign to protect members' jobs and workloads within the public sector, and the seeking of ways to positively engage with the employer to identify possible efficiencies, enhancing our ability to negotiate with the government regarding their policy of reducing public sector waste.

The next meeting of Council will be called following the elections due for a new Council this year.

### **Collective bargaining**

The Council meeting took place on the same day of meeting of delegates from the areas that were part of the Core Public Sector Departments agreement, which will expire in July this year.

Following the discussions of these delegates earlier in the day, the larger Council meeting endorsed the claims that delegates developed and endorsed the adding to these claims specific to their agency or occupational group.

In relation to collective bargaining, Council delegates moved that:

- “Together is committed to collective bargaining as the primary mechanism for setting wages and conditions because collective bargaining delivers better outcomes for members and allows members to have their say on their wages and conditions.
- “Together Council reaffirms the democratic principle adopted by our union that members affected by a collective agreement will, with support from their delegates, determine the union’s policy and actions in relation to that collective agreement.
- “Together supports the role of an independent, third-party umpire that has the power to set fair wages and conditions for a group of workers where agreement cannot be reached between the union and the employer through the collective bargaining process.”

### **Work-life balance**

Council delegates authorised the conducting of a survey of members to assess member concerns and attitudes with respect to the changing nature of the workplace and the impacts on work-life balance and social, family and community responsibilities. This will inform the focus and priorities of the union in future campaigns.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan**

Council delegates endorsed the Reconciliation Action Plan for our union and authorised the Secretary to proceed with implementation of the plan.

### **Workers’ rights in Fiji**

Council delegates passed a motion in support of the rights of union members and human rights in Fiji under the military regime. You can learn more about the ACTU campaign in support of workers’ human rights in Fiji here:

<http://www.actu.org.au/media/mediareleases/AustralianGovernmentmustactinwakeofFijisrenewedclamponhumanandlabourrights.aspx>

### **Financial reports**

The financial reports for the months of July-December 2011 were adopted by this meeting. The Secretary gave a presentation on the effects of the Voluntary Separations Program (VSP) in the public sector, which had led to the loss of members in some areas of the public sector.

### **Fair Work Australia jurisdiction**

The Secretary gave a report to Council on negotiations with the CPSU-SPSF federal body over Together coverage in certain areas that are covered by the Fair Work Australia federal jurisdiction.