

Hi Kath,

I thought the 2012 ASU National Conference was of exceptionally high standard.

The venue and location was well selected, Adelaide being the heart of a Labor State was a perfect choice. There was every facility there that catered for just about any taste or need. The content of the National Conference was, I believe, the best I have ever attended and shared information. There was no way you could get bored with the flow of presentations.

I believe the highlight of the presentations was the very successful Equal Rights for Community Service Workers campaign that was so intense that it actually caught the attention of Prime Minister Gillard. Whilst this campaign identifies there is much more work to do, it sets the benchmark for future campaigns for Equal Pay, Equal Rights, and it is such a success story, it should be savoured for a very long time, after all the ASU was there for of the Community Workers every inch of the way.

It should also be seen as an example of good old Aussie determination to right the wrongs that still exist in our Community and that it can be done, and yes, by women!. It is history making stuff that would inspire anyone, and upholding the true Australian value of "A Fair Go!"

I was also very impressed with the presentation given by Ann Summers. The content made me really stop and think. I did not necessarily agree with every point made in the presentation, but if a presentation was made that didn't spark discussion and feelings, it has not quite hit the target the Presenter is hoping for. For me, it gave me fresh food for thought of how we blokes deal with women in power. For example, Tony Abbott, very reluctantly acknowledging the title of Prime Minister Gillard as he should. It is interesting how he has always addressed former male Prime Ministers for example "Prime Minister Howard". There are many times he has subtly refused to accept she is a woman in power and referred to Prime Minister Gillard as "Julia".(in other words "that shelia over there who is only keeping the Prime Minister seat warm for me")

It is also an example of the acceptance of this attitude of "women in power", by many Australians in management and yes, sadly, also accepted by a lot of male fellow workers. It clearly identified that there was a direct relationship to the ranks of Community Workers rights to Equal Pay & Rights of how a lot of Australians think. In other words there seemed to be a mentality- "give a few bored housewives a few bob for a bit of pocket money and that will keep them happy", instead of acknowledging the very important work that they do. After all, where would we be without them!

The Report Card is out for us blokey Australians and I wonder, how we are performing? The example of how Tony Abbott addresses Prime Minister Gillard is a very poor example for us to follow and damages the respect towards any female in any position of authority or power.

I am going to do my part by showing my siblings the Equal Rights campaign for Community Workers presentation to them and explaining its origin and outcome

I think there is also a lot of work to be done by Unions collectively in the political arena. The only obstacle that stands between Australian workers and a Tony Abbott Government is Prime Minister Gillard. The successful campaigns by Unions will be undermined by a Abbott Government intent on restoring the status of good old middle and upper class, versus, the have and the should not haves. There seems to be an acceptance that there will be a change in Government, I think the Equal Rights campaign demonstrates what can be really achieved. I believe we can re-elect Prime Minister Gillard using the same guts and determination

There are a lot of Queenslanders who took a gamble on a change of Government being a suitable response as the objection to the Assets Sale held by the Bligh Government. How many of these Queenslanders now feel they have lost the gamble and no longer have jobs but face an uncertain future thanks to the Campbell Newman Government?

The same could very easily happen on a Federal level.

I would also like to thank the organisers of the 2012 ASU National Conference for all the work they have done in making it such a successful and smoothly run Conference. It was a job well done considering the enormity of the task of bringing everyone together to share their experiences and knowledge

I would also like to thank our sponsors for all of the financial and resource support they have given to make the Conference possible

Lastly, but not least, I would like to thank You and Jenny, for all of your hard work and patience during this conference

Thank You

It was a privilege to be there

regards

John Finn