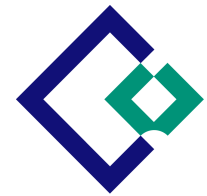


# Public Services Bulletin



A•S•U

• local government • energy-electricity • railways & public transport • water •  
• state & federal government services •  
August 2013

**Lib takes a dive on council pool vote** ANOTHER western Sydney Liberal candidate has been accused of being missing in action after Isabelle White -- a Blacktown councillor who is running in the electorate of Chifley -- failed to front a crucial council vote on Wednesday night. A motion to re-open the local public pool was voted on, but Ms White was a no-show, according to the United Services Union. It is understood Ms White, a 22-year-old university student, was among eight councillors who pushed for the pool's closure. The move attracted widespread criticism among the local community, which said it was not consulted. Ms White joins several other western Sydney Liberal candidates, including Jaymes Diaz and Ray King, who have avoided media scrutiny for fear of making a gaffe that would distract from the Coalition's campaign. Advice ACTU...

**Child Care Update: equal pay application** <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130826-child-care-equal-pay>  
The ASU welcomes the news of and supports the United Voice equal pay application for private sector child carers as the need to recognise early childhood education and care grows. ASU Assistant National Secretary, Greg McLean, attended the first hearing of the United Voice claim for equal remuneration for early childhood educators. The application came before the Fair Work Commission mostly for child care workers in the private sector covered by United Voice. The hearing was well attended with numerous employer group respondents. The ASU supports the United Voice application. It is important to bring private sector child care rates of pay and conditions up to local government standards. After all, the great success of your ASU in local government child care can be lost should councils move to contract out the work. Councils can lose sight of quality public services and the long established commitment of local government...

**Top women break ranks on Abbott paid parental leave scheme** The Australian Financial Review, by Joanna Mather and Mark Ludlow, 20 August 2013 [http://www.afr.com/p/australia2-0/top-women-break-ranks-on-abbott-hzYGOdYtvUDjIyxqJIFMcI?utm\\_source=outbrain&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=Top\\_women\\_break\\_rank\\_on\\_Abbot ...](http://www.afr.com/p/australia2-0/top-women-break-ranks-on-abbott-hzYGOdYtvUDjIyxqJIFMcI?utm_source=outbrain&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Top_women_break_rank_on_Abbot...)

**ASU and other public sector unions seek certainty on Abbott's paid parental leave policy** <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130823-abbott-paid-parental-leave-policy> The ASU joins the ACTU and other unions in seeking a commitment from the Federal Opposition that local government, state government and all other public sector workers will not be disadvantaged by the Abbott Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme. The current scheme introduced by the ALP Federal Government allows a safety net of 18 weeks pay at the minimum wage provided by the Federal Government, and employees and employers bargain to 'top-up' the scheme through workplace agreements. The Abbott PPL scheme will prevent public sector workers from accessing their previously achieved parental leave benefits in awards and agreements if those workers opt to use his scheme, with the Opposition suggesting that those workers would be 'double-dipping'. The private sector would not be restricted this way under the Abbott PPL scheme. "The public sector has never 'double-dipped' and union members through their collective actions over many years have driven the rise..."

**Apprentice pay rise a win for skills and the economy** 22 August, 2013 | Media Release A pay rise for apprentices awarded by the Fair Work Commission will see more people complete vocational training and boost the skill level of the Australian workforce, the ACTU said today. The Commission has awarded significant pay rises to first and second year apprentices as well as people who start apprenticeships as adults. It will apply to apprentices across all industries including construction, manufacturing and hairdressing and in many cases deliver pay rises of \$70 to \$100 per week. "This is a great outcome for current and future apprentices and for the broader economy," said ACTU Secretary Dave Oliver. "Almost half of people who embark on apprenticeships don't complete them, with the very low wages a major factor contributing to drop-outs. "Current wages see apprentices barely able to meet living costs; they are considerably less than other job options and barely more than the Newstart..."

**UK Union Unison - water industry report post privatisation** <http://www.epsu.org/a/9673> UNISON UK has commissioned a report about the water industry in the UK with a view to 25 years of the privatisation of the sector in 2014. The report analyses pretty clear what is wrong in the UK Water sector and gives some suggestions (a wake up call from UNISON) for changing the industry to a responsible and sustainable one. At this moment the water sector is characterised by huge profits flowing to Private Equity firms, high water bills for powerless consumers (paying up to 6% of their income) and a poor state of maintenance. The private water companies are unwilling to address or invest in maintenance of the water infrastructure,

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary,  
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: [gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au](mailto:gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au) W: [www.asu.asn.au](http://www.asu.asn.au)

resulting in huge water losses (up to 45%). Furthermore the UK has an incapable regulator that doesn't address the low corporate taxes paid by the companies, affordability of the poor to pay their increasing water bills, nor the poor...

**Abetz must explain himself and Abbott must rule out changes to penalty rates** Tony Abbott must rule out changes to penalty rates following revelations his IR spokesman, Eric Abetz, has been secretly meeting with big business groups running a campaign to strip penalty rates from hundreds of thousands of workers. ACTU National Secretary Dave Oliver said Tony Abbott needed to guarantee a future Coalition government would not bow to the wishes of big business and scrap penalty rates. "Groups such as the Retailers Association tried and failed to get rid of penalty rates this year through an application to Fair Work Australia," Mr Oliver said. "It is clear they will have another go after the election and expect the Coalition government to back them in. "Eric Abetz has hardly been sighted during the election campaign, and now we know why, he has been in secret meetings with business groups who are pushing an agenda that would strip away workers' rights and penalty rates, and..."

**The August Edition of Words is now available to be downloaded from the WIOA website.**  
<http://www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIOAWordsAug13.pdf> ...

**Second school chaplains challenge significant to local government** ALGA is watching closely as Queensland man Ron Williams launches his second challenge against the federal government in the High Court over a law that allows it to continue funding a national school chaplaincy program to provide spiritual guidance in schools. The first Williams Case related to Commonwealth powers that allow direct federal funding of programs such as the Roads to Recovery program, which provides \$350 million each year to councils across the country to maintain local roads and community infrastructure. In 2012, Toowoomba father of six, Ron Williams won a High Court challenge against the chaplaincy program when the Court ruled that it exceeded the Commonwealth's executive spending powers under the Constitution. The Court found that the Government could not spend money on programs, even if they were permitted under the executive powers, without authority from Parliament. The Government has since introduced legislation in an attempt to provide legislative backing...

**ASU - the Only Union and the only local government employer or union organisation representing local government employees in libraries, art galleries and museums and information**  
<https://www.ibsa.org.au/sacs-and-nprgs> Sector Advisory Committees (SACs) have been established by IBSA for each of the six industry sectors, chaired by an industry expert. Each SAC comprises relevant employer and employee members and meets twice yearly at appropriate points to maximise industry advice for IBSA's planning cycle. SACs play a vital role in providing strategic advice about industry trends, drivers, priorities and Training Package needs. Through sharing market intelligence and identifying the need for research on current and future training and workforce development needs, IBSA is able to develop appropriate training solutions specific to the industry as well as cross-sectoral skills for the contemporary world of work. Cultural and Related Industries Sector Advisory Committee Ruth Smiles Arts Consultant SA Chris Warren IBSA Board Director Mal Gammon Future Now Creative and Leisure Industries Training Council WA Chris Goldsworthy Business Higher Education Round Table David Hamilton Australian Entertainment Industry Association John Maizels Society of Motion...

**The economy in transition by Kevin Rudd** The economy in transition <http://evatt.org.au/news/economy-transition.html> 12 July, 2013 - 16:47 Kevin Rudd Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd I am, without apology, an optimist about our nation's future. Our national strengths are formidable. Our weaknesses, compared with the rest of the world, are few. And, if our policy settings are right, the challenges we face for the future are entirely manageable. My optimism therefore is not based on some sort of feel-good factor. Instead it is based on a cold, hard analysis of the facts - including our ability to manage change when change is necessary. And the core fact is this: Australia is seen around the world as one of the strongest economies, one of the most stable societies, as well as a nation underpinned by a robust national security. For these reasons, it is just plain wrong for anybody in our national political debate to be talking Australia down. Of...

**Privatization of essential services place "placing a heavier emphasis on pay on time and direct debit, with less tolerance for late payment"**. The following article in the SMH once again shows how NSW consumers have been hurt and will be hurt more by those that have privatised or supported privatisation on the NSW electricity retailers - can't we just wait till we get the full affects of more privatization - when will our politicians learn that its consumers that are disadvantaged when privatization of essential services take place 'retailers were "placing a heavier emphasis on pay on time and direct debit, with less tolerance for late payment". Crackdown for payment adds to effect of rising bills <http://www.smh.com.au/national/crackdown-for-payment-adds-to-effect-of-rising-bills-20130809-2rmdz.html> ...

**Preschools better for children than day care** You might find this recent article worth noting - it raises the question of long day care centres, the article raises the point of education in long day care vs preschool. It strikes me as a point an opportunity for local govt to embrace the development and quality side of its an angle worth building on as part of our child care development - possibly not much we can do now, but it may well be an issue we can include in the broader policy debate. <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/federal-election-2013/preschools-better-for-children-than-day-care-20130810-2roqx.html> ...

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary,

Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: [gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au](mailto:gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au) W: [www.asu.asn.au](http://www.asu.asn.au)

### **Local government workers to lose Fed Govt paid parental leave benefit?**

<http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130815-local-govt-paid-parental-leave> The ASU is concerned to have read in this week's media reports that Abbott is planning to fund his controversial paid parental leave scheme by excluding public sector workers, including local government employees, from it. In effect, council workers, teachers and nurses, amongst many others, would lose out in order to subsidise a scheme to allow high income earners in the private sector to get generous payments while on parental leave....

**Ever wondered how the Australian road rules and vehicle standards are kept up-to-date?** The NTC regularly monitors and reviews its reforms to ensure that they keep pace with regulation best practice. A draft package of amendments to the Australian Road Rules, as well as a draft evaluation report which outlines proposed measures to improve the development and implementation of the road rules and vehicle standards rules are currently both open for comment on the NTC's website. The background to both sets of rules and an explanation of the differences between these two processes follows below. About the Australian Road Rules and Australian Vehicle Standards Rules The Australian Road Rules and Australian Vehicle Standards Rules are model laws developed by the NTC in 1999 and later progressively implemented across Australia by state and territory governments. The Australian Road Rules establish the basic rules of the road for motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists, pedestrians, passengers and other road users. The Australian Vehicle Standards...

**ACTU launch election tour in Western Sydney today by demanding the Coalition commit to taking penalty rates off the chopping board** ACTU President Ged Kearney will launch her election tour today by visiting Liverpool Hospital to speak with health workers and then later will join young workers gathering at Parramatta Train Station as part of the Penalty Rates Day of Action. ...

**ASU National Office has created a campaign page for this year's election** National Office has created a campaign page for this year's election to provide members and visitors with information and resources to help them decide who to support on 7 September: <http://www.asu.asn.au/campaigns/fed-elect-2013> ...

### **ASU supports the Rudd announcement on out of school hours care**

<http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130806-out-of-school-hours-care> The ASU supports the Federal Government's announcement of additional child care help for parents using out of school hours care and is calling on councils to work with local schools to allow local government child care educators and carers to be part of the support mechanisms. "It makes sense to use existing infrastructure, buildings and staff and other council services from libraries, sport and recreation, as part of the out of school care services. This would be an excellent opportunity for local government to work with schools to help increase use of council infrastructure and services. One of the biggest costs in any child care service is the building and land facility. Local government can help out here," said ASU Assistant National Secretary Greg McLean. We can't lose sight of the importance and significance of an opportunity for local government to be included in the roll out of key aspects...

**AFTINET latest Trade Bulletin - from AFTINET** Inside this edition: Advice from AFTINET Welcome new Communications Campaigner, Jemma Williams 18th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPPA) negotiations in Malaysia Take Action: Send a letter to the Minister for Trade and the Opposition Trade Spokesperson, or see your MP AFTINET letter to Trade Minister Richard Marles signed by 30 organisations China-Australia free trade agreement a priority for Marles Australia and the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) PACER-Plus Update Dr Patricia Ranald wins Public Health Impact Award 2013 Sydney Morning Herald: Marles vows not to cave to US Pressure AFTINET on Facebook and Twitter ...

**Transport of Dangerous Goods Code to be updated with international best practice** The laws governing the transport of dangerous goods such as chemicals on road and rail will be updated in line with the latest international guidelines, in a package of proposed amendments released by the National Transport Commission (NTC) for public consultation today...Read more ...

**Government spends \$450m on after hours school care** Government spends \$450m on after hours school care August 5, 2013, Sydney Morning Herald, by Judith Ireland and Daniel Hurst Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/federal-election-2013/government-spends-450m-on-after-hours-school-care-20130805-2r99u.html#ixzz2b8sgS8zE...>

### **Constitutional Recognition of Local Government for Funding Is Now on hold as the Federal Election date is before the earliest date for enabling Legislation to let it occur**

[http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters\\_alganews2august2013#Article11498](http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters_alganews2august2013#Article11498) The latest plan to guide policies and programs to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health over the next decade has been released. Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon said the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan was central to the targeted approach to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people could enjoy the same standard of health as other Australians. The health plan builds on the benefits already achieved through the Australian Government's agenda to close the gap in life expectancy and child mortality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the broader population," Mr Snowdon said. "It continues the significant efforts made by the Australian Government since the establishment of the Closing the Gap Framework in 2008." Mr Snowdon said the health plan adopted a strengths-based approach to ensure policies and programs improved health, social and emotional wellbeing and resilience, and promoted positive health behaviours. He said it...

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary,  
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: [gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au](mailto:gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au) W: [www.asu.asn.au](http://www.asu.asn.au)

### **2013 Commonwealth HACC funding round - advice from ALGA**

[http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters\\_alganews2august2013#Article11501](http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters_alganews2august2013#Article11501) The Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides funding for basic maintenance, care and support services for older people and their carers, who live in the community and whose capacity for independent living is at risk, or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care. Older people are people aged 65 years and over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over. The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking applications from organisations who are interested in enhancing, expanding or establishing new service delivery under the Commonwealth HACC Program. The grant application round is now open, with \$281.2 million available for provision of services in early 2014 until 30 June 2015. For more details, visit <http://www.health.gov.au/tenders> or email [Commonwealth.HACC.Funding@health.gov.au](mailto:Commonwealth.HACC.Funding@health.gov.au) Round 2 of the Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund (TIRF) Grants Program closing Wednesday 7 August 2013. ...

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary,  
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: [gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au](mailto:gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au) W: [www.asu.asn.au](http://www.asu.asn.au)