

## **Summary of the QPSU Council meeting** **1 September 2009**

QPSU Council met on Tuesday 1 September 2009. 171 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane

### **Collective bargaining**

During the day of the Council meeting delegates in their agency sub-divisions met to discuss the collective bargaining campaigns that affected them.

The largest agreement covering QPSU members, the Core EB, was discussed by the delegates in agencies covered by the agreement. The morning session of delegates representing workers in the areas covered by the Core EB gave in-principle agreement to the proposed agreement and voted to send the proposed agreement to a ballot of eligible members.

The proposed agreement contains the largest pay rise ever offered to workers in the core departments, and has many other important provisions. Director of Industrial Services Kate Flanders briefed delegates on the contents of the agreement and thanked those delegates who had worked hard during the period of negotiations and campaigns for the new agreement. You can read more about the agreement at [www.qpsu.org.au/core09](http://www.qpsu.org.au/core09)

The poll of QPSU members opened on 14 September and will close on 2 October. Members covered by the proposed agreement may cast their votes online, by phone, SMS, email or post.

Workers in Queensland Health are dealing with the implementation of their collective agreements. The EB 7 agreement covering administrative staff is being implemented, as is the next phase of the Health Practitioners agreement.

Workers in Custodial Corrections have also begun campaigning for a new agreement.

## **Privatisation and contracting out**

QPSU General Secretary Alex Scott gave a briefing to Council about the state government's action in selling off state assets, which had been widely opposed by union members.

He recommended that due to the QPSU's previous successes in fighting the contracting out plans of this government as it applied to workers in schools, that the QPSU should not only be supporting the existing campaign as led by the Queensland Council of Unions but also lead a multi-union campaign that is committed to the provision of quality public services in public hands.

Following the recommendation, Council delegates re-affirmed their existing opposition to the privatisation or contracting out of public assets and services.

Delegates expressed support for a continued and enhanced campaign run by the QPSU and other unions against privatisation or contracting out and the provision of quality services.

Delegates also voted financial support for the Queensland Council of Union's anti-privatisation campaign.

## **Machinery of Government (MOG) changes and elected positions**

In view of the Machinery of Government changes in March of this year, QPSU delegates discussed an update to the QPSU's member database. After discussion, delegates adopted proposals for reform and update of the membership database. A report will be provided to QPSU Council annually on the progress of updates and changes to the database.

Delegates took a number of decisions relating to the positions that will be elected in the QPSU elections of 2010. The list of electoral subdivisions was updated to reflect the MOG changes.

QPSU Council endorsed a list of active regional organising committees for the purposes of ensuring that Presidents of active Regional Organising Committees are seated as members of Council.

The opening of nominations for the 2010 elections will be announced in the next edition of the *Public Sector Voice*.

### **Superannuation**

Following a request from QSuper, Council delegates voted that the QPSU would support adaptation of QSuper Ltd as the default superannuation fund for the purposes of all awards that are applicable to only public sector workers, and that the QPSU would support variations to the relevant awards to name QSuper as the default fund.

### **Universities**

QPSU delegates working in universities had met with delegates from the ASU and LHMU to plan a joint organising and campaigning strategy to increase union member strength in universities. Council delegates noted the decision made by these delegates and endorsed the combined organising approach.

### **Climate Connectors**

Following the very successful QPSU Climate Heroes campaign, supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), the ACTU has decided to launch a similar program nationwide with the support of the ACF and other conservation groups.

Council received a briefing on the Climate Connectors program and discussed ways that QPSU members could continue to improve environmental sustainability in the public sector.

### **Union office premises**

Council was updated on the QPSU's financial status and adopted the financial statements for the months of April-June. The QPSU Brisbane office has successfully moved from 96 Albert Street to new rental accommodation at

27 Peel Street, South Brisbane. In addition, the union will be refurbishing property it owns at 32 Peel Street to act as meeting, training and conference facilities.

The QPSU is continuing to lease premises at 96 Albert Street pending the final sale of the building there by Devine.

Council delegates voted an adjustment to the mix in the union's investments in Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC), as per the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

### **Regional organising committees**

QPSU Council endorsed a list of active regional organising committees for the purposes of ensuring that Presidents of active Regional Organising Committees are seated as members of Council.

### **Rules changes and meeting dates**

QPSU Council voted to accept changes to the QPSU rules as had been advertised in two previous additions of *Public Sector Voice*.

Meeting dates for QPSU Council in 2010 were set by delegates as follows:

- Tuesday 30 March
- Wednesday 16 June
- Wednesday 1 November
- Tuesday 30 November