

Summary of the QPSU Council meeting
16 June 2010

QPSU Council met on Wednesday 16 June 2010. 231 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

2010 AGM and financial reports

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting of members held on 27 May, it was recommended that, in light of a number of small errors that were detected by the Auditors on the union's financial statements for the year 2009, Union Council call a Special General Meeting of members for the specific purpose of formally approving the financial statements.

QPSU Council accepted this recommendation and called for a Special General Meeting of members to be held in conjunction with the next Council meeting on 1 September 2010.

A venue for the 2011 AGM has not yet been decided. A working party will report back to the November meeting of Council with recommendations on proposed locations.

Report on QPSU amalgamation discussions

As has been previously been advised to members, the General Secretary informed Council that the QPSU Executive has decided not to move forward with negotiations with the LHMU Queensland about a formal amalgamation of our two unions at this time.

The General Secretary reported to Council that Executive is still considering a proposal to amalgamate with the Australian Services Union, Central and Southern Queensland Branch (ASU), and had adopted a number of principles for consideration in respect to a potential amalgamation with the ASU. This amalgamation would have the significant benefit of removing crippling coverage issues in Queensland Health and Universities and provide greater resources for campaigns and regional centres south of Rockhampton (the

Central and Southern Queensland Branch does not have existing coverage of workers north of Rockhampton).

The General Secretary stated his preference that a scheme of amalgamation should not lead to the affiliation of QPSU members to the Australian Labor Party or any political party.

An extensive preliminary discussion about the amalgamation proposal then took place.

The General Secretary said Executive would be looking at having a decision to send a scheme of amalgamation to membership ballot at the 1 September Council meeting and for a set of rules to be presented at that meeting, with those rules to apply from January next year.

Election of Other Members of Executive and Committee members

The meeting was formally advised of the results of the internal ballot of Council members for the positions of Other Members of Executive.

In accordance with the results of the ballot as certified by the returning officer are:

Sharon Abbott
Cameron Brown
Jason Hunt
Julie Ivison
Annalisse McHugh
Rod Miles
Paul O'Driscoll
Jo O'Shanesy
Doug Thomas.

The elected members of Council Committees, also certified by the Returning Officer, were accepted by Council by way of formal motion.

Presentation of awards to DERM Workplace Committee

Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) General Secretary, Ron Monaghan, was invited to address the meeting and present to members of the DERM Workplace Committee their awards for “Most Active and Effective Workplace Committee” as announced by the QCU prior to Labour Day 2010.

Mr. Monaghan congratulated all recipients and thanked the President and the General Secretary for inviting him to present the certificates at the meeting.

DERM delegate Ross Buchanan spoke on behalf of the Committee and thanked Mr Monaghan for the awards and Council members for their continuing support of the Committee’s work.

National Pay Equity campaign

David Smith, Secretary of the Australian Services Union, Services Branch (ASU Services) briefed Council on the campaign being run by his union nationally for pay equity.

Following the briefing Council delegates voted a motion in support of the campaign by sending a ‘Kiss’ to federal IR Minister Julia Gillard.

Individual members are encouraged to learn more about and support the campaign by visiting www.payup.org.au.

Workers’ Compensation changes

Council delegates received a report on recent legislative changes to Queensland’s Workers’ Compensation arrangements.

These changes have been brought about by the government in response to concerns about the financial viability of WorkCover Queensland.

It was mentioned by delegates that WorkCover Queensland is both the most financially viable workers’ compensation scheme in Australia and one of the most generous.

Council delegates passed a motion calling on the government to treat injured workers equally to other personal injury litigants and harmonise the workers' compensation common law regime with the *Civil Liability Act 2003* in full.

Support of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA

Council delegates received a report on the work of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, the Australian union movement's overseas aid agency.

Detail on APHEDA and the work it performs in supporting workers' rights and development internationally can be seen at the APHEDA website, www.apheda.org.au

Council voted to support the work of APHEDA through donations made of \$1.00 per Council delegate per meeting attended, matched by equivalent QPSU funds.