



Australian Services Union
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Media Release

for immediate release

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Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

QLD GOVERNMENT MUST FOLLOW FEDERAL LEAD AND RESOLVE PUBLIC SECTOR PAY DISPUTE NOW

A key public sector union with thousands of members employed in Queensland Health has called upon the State Government to follow the lead of the Rudd government in recognising the need to stimulate local demand by injecting more money into the economy.

ASU Branch Secretary Julie Bignell said “The federal Labor Government has recognised the need to take steps to shore up local demand by injecting billions of dollars directly into the economy by way of assistance to working families and retirees, and by fast-tracking infrastructure projects that will shore up jobs and local communities. However, our members in QHealth have been waiting for too long for a decent pay offer from the State Government, which would go a long way to alleviating the pinch from soaring costs of living. It’s time to resolve this dispute by putting forward a decent offer that addresses our members’ legitimate concerns, and to restore their confidence in being able to meet their basic living expenses.”

“Now is not the time to be stingy, now is the time to follow the Rudd Government’s lead and acknowledge that the way out of economic difficulties is to stimulate demand and alleviate the pain consumers are feeling. A decent pay rise for health workers is not only deserved, it is good economic sense, and it shouldn’t be further delayed,” she said.

ASU members are ramping up ongoing industrial action through the addition of more bans at each hospital site, alongside other health unions. Julie said “Additional bans will come into place as from Wednesday 15 October and they will involve a myriad of particular administrative functions at the local level which do not impact upon patients, such as:

- a ban on delivering mail to Corporate Office
- a ban on billing patients who are non-citizens
- a ban on reporting bed numbers
- a ban on the movement or connection of computing equipment.

It is very unfortunate that our members are in a situation where they must escalate their industrial action but in the absence of a pay offer, they have to think about their own bottom-line and how they are going to make ends meet in an environment where it is increasingly difficult to anticipate their own financial circumstances.”

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