



PLUMBING INDUSTRY NEWS

FEDERAL ELECTION

The upcoming Federal Election this year is going to be crucial for all working families in Australia. We must all vote to make sure that the IR laws are changed. If we don't, over time, wages and conditions of all Australian workers will be slowly but surely worn down. The Unions and the Australian public want workplace laws that respect the rights of workers not to be unfairly dismissed, stop workers being pushed onto AWA'S, and ensures that workers have the right to a collective agreement.

Strict new Federal Government voting rules has been introduced. The new voting rules abolish the five-day enrolment period after the official calling of the Election and introduce strict proof of identity requirements for first time voters. Under the laws the election rolls for new voters will close at 8pm on the same day that the election is officially called. Figures from the last Federal election in 2004, show that 78,816 new enrolments were received in the five day period following the official calling of the election – these people may be robbed of their vote in the coming election. This is why all new voters must enrol straight away so they can vote out these harsh IR laws.

YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK CAMPAIGN

I am currently involved in the Your Rights at Work Makin (electoral area) community action group, this group organise community events, letter boxing, door knocking and voter registration. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6pm. If your interested in helping out in this community campaign or further information please contact me on 0418 815 880 or Tim Palmer (ACTU community coordinator) on 0412 802 191. We need as many people as possible to help. You can find more information on www.yourrightsatwork.com.au

UNION MEMBERSHIP/BENIFITS

Just a reminder that we do have direct debit forms (bank or credit card) for union fees and there is no extra cost for this. Membership is steady at the moment but as always we need to increase the union membership to make the union and industry stronger. If a worker is working beside you and they are not a union member inform them about benefits of being a union member and remind them that they are receiving all the same benefits as you are for what the union has fought for over the years. You can visit our web site at www.cepusa.com.au



All financial members in addition to industrial and work cover assistance and updated information receive the following benefits:

- Emergency accident ambulance cover for you and your family
- \$5000 funeral cover
- journey cover to and from work
- Free standard will service
- One free legal appointment
- Cheaper home loans through members equity
- Discounts on union shopper on variety of goods and holidays

You must be a financial member to receive these benefits.

TRAINING

We have shop steward training and work choices courses available this year and we will be offering OH&S training soon as well if anyone is interested in doing these courses contact me on 0418 815 880 or e-mail me on doug.buchanan@bigpond.com

Regards

Douglas Buchanan
CEPU
Plumbing Organiser

