

S.The Signal

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EBA MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The CEPU is continuing to organise meetings and forums for members and other employees to discuss the EBA and the EBA developments.

[CBD Lunchtime meetings 12 Noon to 2PM](#)

TUESDAY 5th AUGUST COOPERS INN 282 Exhibition Street, Level 2 – Heritage Room

THURSDAY 7th AUGUST SCOTS CHURCH HALL, 99 Russell Street, (near the corner of Russell & Collins Sts, behind the Church)

[GOC Lunchtime meetings 12 Noon to 2PM in the LINK ROOM](#)

Bldg M7 TUESDAY 29th JULY
Bldg M5 WEDNESDAY 30th JULY
Bldg M6 THURSDAY 31st JULY

[Country Members Telephone Conference](#)

TUESDAY 5th AUGUST 7.30PM

Dial in: 1800 333 803
Pin: 3218

We are also continuing the ring-around to talk to every CEPU Telstra member at home, over a period of time. We are generally calling from 5.30PM to 8PM whenever we can.

Web sites: www.cepuconnects.org
www.rightsatwork.com.au/campaigns/gobacktothetable

UNION'S LATEST LETTER TO TELSTRA - EBA

The single bargaining unit (SBU) which represents the three unions in Telstra (CEPU, CPSU and APESMA), sent the following letter to Mr Trujillo, CEO of Telstra, following HR's decision to pull out of the EBA discussions:

"Dear Mr. Trujillo,

I am writing on behalf of the SBU in response to Telstra correspondence of 17 July, notifying us that Telstra has withdrawn from Enterprise Agreement negotiations.

This decision is very disappointing for the members we represent, and for all Telstra staff.

I reiterate the terms of our correspondence of 30 June, 2 July and 7 July to your Director Workplace Relations and People Services, Darren Fewster. Specifically:

1. *Unions have not sought to make agreement about a more positive working relationship (e.g. as outlined in our proposed Memorandum of Understanding) a precondition for ongoing talks around the Enterprise Agreement. Nor have we ever sought to involve Telstra in making an agreement that is not compliant with government guidelines, or that would undermine its capacity to undertake government work.*
2. *We note Telstra's proposition, in response to the unions' proposals, for "Principles Relating to a Productive Working Relationship" and we are also happy to discuss these*

your rights at work
worth fighting for

3. *Unions will continue to bargain in good faith. Our judgement on support for a collective agreement will depend on the outcome for members (a significant proportion of which are on AWAs) and on the outcome for potential members.*

We remain open to the best means of achieving real change and a more positive working relationship than that of recent years.

It's our view that better relationships can only be achieved when the parties are in discussion. Therefore, once again, we call upon Telstra to recommence negotiations. We are available to recommence talks on Friday July 25 and Monday July 27.

Yours sincerely,

*ED HUSIC
Divisional Secretary"*

WORKCHOICES FIGHT NOT OVER, SAYS CEPU

The fight to roll back the Howard Government's WorkChoices legislation is not over yet, the CEPU's Communications Division has warned.

The Communications Division National Conference, held in Melbourne this week, unanimously supported a resolution to strengthen the new labour laws being drafted by the Rudd Government and to get rid of the anti-worker provisions of WorkChoices.

In particular, the CEPU wants to see:

- The removal of the "prohibited content" clauses from the *Workplace Relations Act*. These clauses restrict what can be put in an enterprise agreement and so limit our ability to promote improved wage and job security conditions in areas such as contracting out and casualisation of the workforce.
- Protection of arbitration as a concrete "last resort" feature of the dispute resolution processes. This will ensure agreements can be fully enforced.
- Removal of bans on pattern bargaining – critically important within the communications sector, as sub-contracting firms move to dilute working conditions and income levels that the CEPU helped secure.
- Protection of the Telstra Redundancy Agreement (TRA). While the CEPU has already secured the extension of the agreement beyond March 2009, at present the TRA will still be extinguished in the event of a new enterprise agreement being struck (unless that agreement incorporates the TRA).

The CEPU representatives on the ACTU Executive will be putting forward these proposals when the Executive next meets

The Communications Division is committed to working with the rest of the union movement in the ongoing campaign to secure these changes to the current anti-labour legislation.

CEPU STILL PURSUING CSS ISSUES

WorkChoices is not the only unfinished business with the former Howard Government that is on the CEPU's agenda.

The recently held Communications Division National Conference also addressed the question of entitlements for those of our members who were still on the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) when Telstra was fully privatised and were disadvantaged by the Government move.

Following CEPU representations to then Shadow Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner last year (and before), the CEPU obtained a commitment from the ALP that, if elected, a Federal Labor Government would hold an inquiry into public service superannuation and make the Telstra CSS issue a specific term of reference in the inquiry.

The CEPU thinks it's time that commitment was acted on. The Divisional Conference called on the Divisional Secretary to facilitate urgent talks with the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation with a view to progressing this issue on behalf of our Telstra members.

All Unions Delegates & Shop Stewards Mass Meeting Wednesday 30 July, 10AM at Dallas Brookes Hall

All workplace delegates are invited to VTHC All Unions Delegates and Shop Stewards Mass meeting Other Union Activists should come and be involved, as well.

The VTHC Executive Council has called an all unions' delegates and shop stewards' meeting. You are urged to turn out at this important mass meeting to support Noel Washington, a CFMEU official, who is resisting the remnants of Howard's Building Industry anti-union code.

Noel faces jail as he has been charged by the Department of Public Prosecutions and is set to appear in the Magistrates Court in August. The charge is for refusing to attend an interview with the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) – an organisation that was set up by the Howard government to harass, intimidate and bully workers and their unions in the construction industry.

The ABCC want Noel to answer questions relating to union meetings held at Bovis Lend Lease in 2007. The way Noel sees it; it's none of their business. "I'm not going to talk about what happened at a union meeting. I'm not going to give up workers, our members or any official of the union."

Bovis Lend Lease is complaining among other things that uncomplimentary things were said about company managers at the union meeting.

LEN COOPER
Branch Secretary