

North Burnett Regional Council - Takes the Lead With Domestic and Family Violence Leave.

25 NOVEMBER 2015

The Services Union welcomes North Burnett Regional Council's decision to approve a Domestic and Family Violence Leave (DAFVL) Policy for its staff.

The Union which looks after thousands of Local Government workers across the State, has been advocating to not only having DAFVL Clauses added to all of their members' Certified Agreement but for this type of leave to become a National Employment Standard (NES).

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said it is extremely pleasing that North Burnett Regional Council is taking the lead and adopting a DAFVL Policy.

"The proposed DAFVL Policy was raised by our members with Council as part of our current Agreement negotiations with them and members included it in their Log of Claims," Ms Thomas said.

"Council is adopting the ACTU model policy and it will be classed as 10 days special leave and extra days if required with approval."

"Although we are still bargaining with Council, management have agreed to implement this Policy without waiting on the outcome of bargaining because they know it's the right thing to do."

"North Burnett is the first Council in Queensland to do this. They have set a precedent and we now hope that all other Councils will follow their example."

"It is great to see this Council doing more than just taking a symbolic step and actually adopting real policies which support their workforce," Ms Thomas said.

Council is implementing the policy now, with a commitment to include provisions in the EBA once finalised.

North Burnett Regional Council Mayor Don Waugh explained that the Domestic and Family Violence Leave (DAFVL) Policy aligns with the recent LGAQ Safer Families, Better Communities campaign, which featured the display of banners throughout all six North Burnett communities along with community members wearing white armbands to proclaim the regions stand against Domestic Violence.

W theservicesunion.com.au

P 07 3844 5300
F 07 3846 5046

"Domestic violence in our community is unacceptable. Council is committed to providing assistance to any employee who needs leave to try to prevent or stop a violent situation at home," Mayor Waugh said.

"It's important that we support our staff during difficult circumstances. It is beneficial for our staff and the community, and also helps us to maintain a productive work environment."

AUSTRALIAN MUNICIPAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL
AND SERVICES UNION QUEENSLAND
(SERVICES
AND NORTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE)
BRANCH
ABN 86 351 665 653

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

BRANCH SECRETARY:
Neil Henderson
ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY:

... ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Belinda Hogan-Collis, Media/Communications Officer on 07 3010 4446 or 0401 710 039.