

29 AUGUST 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Some Queensland Councils Are Living In The Dark Ages When It Comes To Equal Pay!

It is Equal Pay Day this Friday (31 August) , and although the national gender pay gap is at its lowest level in 20 years, there are few Queensland Local Councils that are committed to maintaining and increasing it.

The Services Union has been locked in major industrial disputes with both Moreton Bay and Somerset Regional Councils for years due to the cuts to wages and conditions including job security they were able to introduce under Campbell Newman's broken industrial laws.

These two Councils were able to force their employees to vote up Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (EBAs) which substantially cut the pay rates of some Administrative Staff; positions predominately filled by women, by threatening to remove redundancy entitlements among other things.

Logan City Council and the City of Gold Coast Council want to travel down the same path with their next enterprise Agreement but the Services Union members are not agreeing to it.

Secretary of The Services Union, Neil Henderson said he agrees with the Australian Government's Workplace Gender Equality Agency which stated last week that all employers must ensure their employees are paid equitably.

"Unfortunately, these four Councils don't understand that message and think it's fine to cut the wage rates for classification levels predominantly occupied by women in their workplaces," Mr Henderson said.

"We are talking about jobs such as library assistants and customer service officers."

"Since Moreton Bay Regional Council introduced its two-tiered wage structure in December 2014, there has been 350 new staff employed with 162 people working in these affected positions."

"We know that 106 of these workers are female (over 65 per cent) and that means these women are taking home less pay and less superannuation. It's just not right."

"At Somerset Regional Council 69 per cent of the employees working in these positions are women", Mr Henderson said. Members at Logan City Council and the City of Gold Coast Council have recently taken strike action over their employers' insistence on the introduction of a two-tiered workforce.

... ENDS

W theservicesunion.com.au

P 07 3844 5300
F 07 3846 5046

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
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT:
Jennifer Thomas

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Media Officer Belinda Hogan-Collis on 0401 710 039

"We have done the sums and know that the biggest pay cut a person could have working in one of these positions at the City is \$113.04 per week. Australians don't want a pay cut, they need a pay rise to keep up with the cost of living," Mr Henderson said.

"Research shows that the gender pay gap can be attributed to female-dominated jobs, such as those we are talking about, attracting lower wages."

"With this in mind you would think these four Councils would want to set an example and be an employer of choice for people living in their local regions?"

"Instead these four Councils are living in the dark ages where they basically think a woman's work is worth less pay. We're not copping it", Mr Henderson said.