



# Information Update

## What is a Union?

A union is an organized group of workers who collectively use their strength to have a voice in their workplace. Through a union, workers have a right to impact wages, work hours, benefits, workplace health and safety, job training and other work-related issues. Under Australian law, workers of all ages have the right to join a union. Having support from the union to ensure fairness and respect in the workplace is one of the key reasons workers organize.

All of the benefits and protections workers enjoy today came about as a result of the organized labour movement in this country. These include the minimum wage, social security payments, an eight hour day and weekends, overtime pay, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act which requires employers to meet safety standards for their workers.

## Why do I need a union?

Primarily, to have a voice on the job. Unless workers are organized, management is free to exploit workers. Union members also earn better wages and benefits than workers who aren't represented by a union. On average, union workers' wages are 30 percent higher than their nonunion counterparts.

## How much does it cost?

Fees are based on your hours of employment. An employee working less than 25 hours per week will pay \$8.85 per week and employee employed more than 25 hours per week pays \$11.10. Union fees are fully tax deductible and you will either receive a statement at the end of the financial year, or can use your credit card or debit account statements when filing your tax return.

## ***“Caring for our Caregivers”***

**State Secretary: Diana Asmar**

**Address: Level 5/222 Kings Way (PO Box 1088) South Melbourne, Victoria 3205**

**Ph: (03) 9341 3300 Fax: (03) 9341 3334 Email: [info@hwu.org.au](mailto:info@hwu.org.au) Website: [www.hwu.org.au](http://www.hwu.org.au)**



I was a member in the past and I stopped paying my membership do I owe the Health Workers Union any back dues?

The Health Workers Union is offering an amnesty for all resigned members to rejoin the Health Workers Union as a new member free of any back dues that may exist. This step acknowledges that under previous administration the pathology sector has been greatly ignored. Under the current administration we need you to assist yourself by making your union stronger.

Please feel free to print off as many copies of the membership form attached to supply all employees at your worksite and return via Fax to: 03 9341 3334.

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# Application Form



I wish to become a member of the Health Workers Union

Surname  Given Name(s)

Date of Birth  Occupation/Classification

Worksite

Employment status (please tick  Full Time  Part Time  Casual  Hours worked per week

Address  Town/Suburb  Postcode

Email

Home Phone  Mobile

Work Phone  NOTE: Your contact details will only be used for union correspondence and WILL NOT be disclosed to third parties

Please choose from one of the following three payment options:

### Direct Debit Request/Payment Schedule

Fortnightly

Monthly

Surname  Given(s)

BSB Number  Account Number

Name of Financial Institution

### Credit Card Payment/Payment Schedule

Fortnightly

Monthly

Please charge my Mastercard  Visacard  American Express  \$

Card Number  Expiry Date

### Invoice Payments/Payment Schedule

- Please send my invoices to my address, listed above.
- Please send my invoices to the following address, listed below.

Address  Town/Suburb  Postcode

N.B. All invoices are sent on a quarterly basis (four times per year). Your first invoice will be sent when we get your application, and will include a pro-rata payment total for the period up until your first full quarterly statement.

I do not wish to be informed about Health Workers Union exclusive member discounts and benefits.

By signing, I am providing the Health Workers Union with an authorisation to process payments and am agreeing to the terms and conditions outlined on the back of this form:

Signature  Date

Please forward completed forms to the union office via one of the following options

**POST:** PO Box 1088 South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 **EMAIL:** info@hwu.org.au **FAX:** (03) 9341 3334 or **HAND IT** to your union organiser.