



## IN BRIEF



### Howard's Hard Labour Sentence

The Federal Government's industrial relations laws are hitting Australian workers hard. With the Federal election coming up very soon, find out how you can help with the ACTU's Your Rights @ work campaign at <http://actu.asn.au>

### Diversity Conference 2007

Organised by the UFUA and Victoria's MFB, this national conference is about building diversity in Australia's emergency services. It is on at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from October 31 to November 2 and the early bird registration deadline is September 21. Find out more at: <http://www.des2007.com>



### Employment Rights Brains Trust

And don't we need them! The Australian Institute of Employment Rights is an independent body of respected professionals engaged as labour rights advocates. Find out more about the Institute at: <http://aierights.com.au>

## CONTACT

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# Super Battle

With the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme down for the count, Tasmanian firefighters have had enough

Tasmanian Award firefighters face an uncertain future following a super muck-up that could see them lose millions of dollars in retirement benefits.

On July 4, Tasmanian members turned out in large numbers to voice their anger outside parliament house and demand that their super entitlements be restored. They also put extensive work bans in place to highlight their discontent and urged the government to intervene.

Richard Warwick, Tasmanian Branch Secretary says, "This affects all members of the scheme, both young and old. God knows much they will lose over their career unless the State Government acts now."

When firefighters took industrial action a fortnight ago, things finally started to move. The bans have not yet been lifted but probably will be on July 24 following a State Government promise to provide an accurate picture of the financial situation of the fund, which will allow the Union to make informed decisions.

The Government is still not guaranteeing to fix firefighters' super benefits, saying it needs a

full actuarial report, and this will take a month to compile.

The UFUA National Office is offering its full support to Richard and his members in Tasmania. Watch this space!

### WHERE'S THE MONEY GONE?

The State Fire Commission Super Fund was merged into the Tasmanian public servants fund in 2005. But the terms of the takeover remained unclear until recently, when the union learnt that entitlements for retiring members are much lower than under the old scheme.

"It is difficult to find out who is responsible for the mess," says Richard Warwick. "The State Government, the scheme's administrator, Treasury and the Fire Service all point the finger elsewhere."