



## IN BRIEF



### Better Bargaining

The ACTU's campaign for workplace rights is now focused on collective bargaining. "Union based collective bargaining gets results," says Peter Marshall. "Just take a look at the excellent result in the ACT earlier this year – and that was achieved in a hostile, full-on WorkChoices jurisdiction." Have a look at the latest ACTU campaign advertisement on YouTube.



...WORTH FIGHTING FOR

### EB Round up

Bargaining rounds in four UFUA branches are hotting up. "Employers around the country are digging in," says Peter Marshall. "We'll have a full round up of the pay disputes in the QLD, NSW, WA, SA and Aviation Branches in the next edition of Dispatch."

### UFUA National Review

A report on the UFUA's national structure will be presented to the National Executive meeting in September. The Union's consultant Adam Bandt is visiting branches prior to completing his review.

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The economy is under strain and agreement negotiations have become much tougher for firefighters in the NSW, QLD, WA, SA and Aviation branches of the Union

## Not over yet

With employers applying pressure, the campaign for workplace and Union rights is far from over

The ACTU is reenergising the 'Your Rights at Work' campaign following employer attempts to torpedo the Federal Government's industrial relations changes. "The message from November's federal election was clear," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "Australians voted for Kevin Rudd because he said he would get rid of unfair workplace laws."

However, a number of high profile Australian companies, such as Qantas and Telstra, are now playing hard ball with Unions. "It's always disappointing to see major employers attempting to ignore their

employees' Unions," says Peter Marshall. "Firefighters know that the only way to get a good pay deal, decent conditions and employment security is through a collective agreement negotiated with the Union."

At stake are guarantees about Union access to workplaces and the abolition of individual contracts (AWAs). "That's why it's important to support the ACTU," says Peter Marshall. "Pay disputes will become increasingly difficult and we can already see that trend in negotiations involving a number of UFUA Branches. We need state governments to do the right thing by firefighters."

## FIVE POINT PLAN

The ACTU says the Rudd Government's new workplace laws must ensure all Australian workers have:

- the right to bargain collectively
- protection from unfair dismissal
- the right to be represented by a Union
- better pay and conditions, and
- the right to a say in their workplace.

"Job security is vitally important," says Peter

Marshall. "World economic and climate pressures are presenting serious challenges to family budgets. The last thing we need is employers like Qantas shipping hundreds of jobs offshore."

State and Territory Government budgets are now also under pressure; one sign of this is the bitter struggle forced on the New South Wales Branch by the lemma Government which is refusing to support a fair wage increase for firefighters.