



IN BRIEF



On the money

"Record wage gains for Queensland Members shows that Mark Walker has the experience, drive and determination to gain the best results for members," says National UFU Secretary Peter Marshall. "Queensland Members can be proud of their Branch's achievements."



Stick to the plan

The key to our Members' campaign victory was solidarity, says Queensland Branch President Henry Lawrence. "We withstood intense pressure from the State Government to accept a lowly first offer or to have the job evaluation arbitrated."



Back pay win

"We insisted that back-pay be paid back to July 1, 2007 – and we achieved that," says Mark Walker. "The campaign was long and arduous, but we took the fight right up to the government and stood firm."

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Benchmark set

The Queensland Branch leadership delivers a big win for firefighters and a successful conclusion to the fair wage campaign

Queensland firefighters have ended their long and hard fought struggle for a better wage deal with significant wage gains. Work value increases range from 3% to 7% depending on rank. "So, if you span from June 30, 2006 to July 1 this year, Senior Firefighters, for example, will have received wage increases of 26.3%," says Queensland UFU Branch Secretary Mark Walker. "That's 8.76% per year across three years – and a day."

UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall says the Queensland Branch fair wages campaign win sets the benchmark for

work value cases around the country. "Mark Walker and the Queensland Branch leadership have shown what can be achieved with a well planned, determined campaign. They've produced a big win for Queensland firefighters – and they will achieve it again. Members can be certain of this."

The wage increase calculation includes the first increase of the next Agreement due in July. "Very few unions have been able to achieve advances of this magnitude for their members," says Mark Walker. "We're very proud to have achieved that."

REAL WORK VALUE

Queensland Branch Secretary Mark Walker says the achievements over the last three years plus, particularly the latest job evaluation outcome, demonstrates that the Union's strategies have been correct for the times, particularly with the current economic downturn.

"We've won an average annual increase of around \$11,000 for firefighters across that period of time," says Mark. "A Queensland

Senior Firefighter is now on about \$66,800, while the top level of Station Officer receives about \$88,500."

"No one has been forgotten in this work value victory," says National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "For example, a first year firefighter gains an extra \$350 a fortnight after completing the recruit course. This is a significant increase in these difficult times."