



Code 2, Vol 28, No 10

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UFUQ submission to parliament and appearance at hearing regarding proposed changes to OH&S laws in Queensland

On 13 February 2014 the LNP state government introduced a Bill into parliament that will have significant impact on the work of workplace health and safety representatives. I wrote to you in a Code 2 about this on 14 February, you will find more information in that Code 2 (Volume: 28 No: 4) here –

http://www.ufuq.com.au/files/3813/9235/8253/Code_2_Vol_28_No_4.pdf

As reported in the Code 2, on 28 February 2014 your union provided a submission to the parliamentary committee on the proposed changes, that submission can be found here –

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/FAC/2014/WrkHlthSftyAmndBII2014/submissions/011.pdf>

Following up on our submission, your union appeared at the public hearing of the parliamentary committee on Wednesday 5 March 2014, along with representatives from many other unions and employer groups.

Your union explained to MP's on the committee the impact the proposed changes would have on UFUQ members entering unsafe workplaces.

The laws are designed only to limit union rights, are politically motivated, and do nothing to advance or improve OH&S, and they will have an impact on the emergency response work performed by you and your colleagues.

Remember, if you believe that there is imminent risk to your safety and/or health at work, the legislation provides you with the right to cease what you are doing and report the situation.

I will keep you informed on this latest example of the government changing laws to suit themselves

and employers, hobbling unions, and this time, directly worsening OHS.

Day worker overtime calculation decision – Appeal is heard in Queensland Industrial Court

The QFES appeal against the QIRC decision about calculation and payment of overtime to day workers receiving special flexibility allowance was heard in front of the President of the Industrial Court on Thursday 27 February 2014.

QFES are appealing the QIRC decision that held that day workers in receipt of the special flexibility allowance have their overtime calculated over a pay period and not daily.

QFES presented an argument to the court that essentially offered no new grounds for dismissing the findings in support of UFUQ's claims.

Counsel appearing for the UFUQ put the argument that the QIRC did not make a mistake in deciding in favour of the union's position.

If you would like copies of either side's submissions, or a transcript of the proceedings, please contact the State Office and one can be emailed to you.

I remind you that if you are eligible for this overtime, contact QFES ERU at Kedron to ensure you are being paid it correctly, during the period whilst we await the decision of the President.

I will inform you of the decision by the President of the Industrial Court and of the impact for those day workers who will be affected by the decision as soon as it is released.

John Oliver
State Secretary

Authorised by John Oliver State Secretary
United Firefighters' Union of Australia, Union of Employees – QLD