

Political and Community Plan

2009 - 2011

Preamble

In 2007, the Australian union movement created history by leading one of the largest and most effective grassroots political campaigns in Australia's history. The Your Rights at Work campaign was a major cause of the defeat of the Howard Government and raised the issue of industrial relations and workers' rights to the top of the national political agenda.

We now have an opportunity to build on the strengths of the Your Rights at Work Campaign and consolidate our capacity to be an effective movement in pursuit of key priorities for working Australians.

Our involvement in political campaigning must be focussed on priorities and strategies that concern working people and can make a real difference to their lives.

Therefore, our involvement in politics has to be seen as a means to provide a strong voice for working people and their families and to increase their political and electoral power through greater participation in Australia's democratic institutions.

This requires unions to reach out to the community and to build a movement that provides enduring political momentum with the capacity to achieve positive outcomes for all working Australians.

Through successful and disciplined co-ordination of a union and community campaign we can help to foster greater community engagement and a stronger democracy as well as generate an effective movement to shape our workplaces and our society on the basis of rights, community values and progressive policy.

Motion

That Congress supports:

1. Building on the campaign for Rights At Work to ensure fair and progressive industrial laws are put in place for all Australian workers
2. The development and involvement of union members in political activity in support of their industrial and social goals
3. The mobilisation of workplaces as points for developing industrial and political awareness and activism
4. The involvement of union members and the wider community in political lobbying and community activity, including federal and state and territory elections as relevant to our strategic objectives
5. The fostering of broad community participation in the electoral process, especially among young people
6. The active use of political and governmental relationships, processes and structures at the national, state and territory levels to advance union goals and establish political accountability
7. The ACTU and unions campaigning at the next federal election as a further key opportunity to build our political capacity and to achieve our objectives
8. The framework for developing the next federal election campaign will contain the following elements:
 - The development and rollout of coordinated union and community mobilisation plans with TLCs, affiliates and Your Rights at Work groups
 - Affiliates engaging with their members in key areas through a model of one on one conversations about key issues
 - On the ground mobilisation designed to facilitate visibility and activism for agreed campaign objectives and to increase political awareness amongst union members and the broader community
 - Online capability to expand and engage our list and generate further activism and political awareness
 - Campaign coordination through the political strategy sub committee of the ACTU Growth and Campaign Executive Committee.