

draft executive resolution

5 April 2012

Health Services Union

Unions are dedicated to representing and advocating for working Australians, and the people who work for unions are motivated by values of fairness and collective responsibility.

The central obligation of all union officials, and the one that prevails over all others, is to serve the interests of their members. This is particularly true of elected officials who are entrusted with the management of members' funds.

Executive notes that Australian unions are subject to the multiple layers of regulation (enacted by the Coalition) including onerous reporting requirements far in excess of that required for companies.

The Australian union movement has zero tolerance for corruption or the misuse of members' funds or for maladministration of union affairs. The ACTU is absolutely committed to the transparent and accountable use of members' funds.

The Executive notes that there are a number of investigative and legal processes underway in respect of matters within the HSU National Office, former Victorian No. 1 Branch and HSU East Branch. It is essential that they be completed and appropriate action taken.

The ACTU makes no suggestion of guilt for any individual associated with the union, past or present. Everyone has the right to the presumption of innocence and it is important that due process is allowed while a number of investigations are underway.

The ACTU Executive believes it is necessary to send a clear message to the officials and members of the HSU that these matters must be dealt with.

The Executive recognises that there are branches within the HSU in respect of which no allegations have been made and that staff and delegates around Australia are dedicated to representing and advocating for their members.

The Executive also recognises that the National Executive has taken action post 2007 to put in place governance systems within the National Office to address issues that have been raised.

Having heard the Secretary's Report concerning the HSU, Executive resolves:

1. To suspend the recognition of the HSU as an affiliated union, effective immediately.
2. To continue to provide services and support to members of the HSU and give encouragement and assistance to all those officials, delegates and members who are dedicated to a strong, democratic and accountable HSU.
3. No HSU member should be disadvantaged as a result of this decision.
4. The ACTU officers and Executive will monitor these matters. The suspension will apply until such time as the union can prove to the Executive that it has dealt with their issues and has a plan to manage the union, as a whole, properly.