

Thursday, 3 February 2011

Tribute from unions on passing of Bill Mansfield

Statement from ACTU Secretary Jeff Lawrence and ACTU President Ged Kearney

The Australian union movement expresses its great sadness at the passing of Bill Mansfield.

Bill Mansfield was a stalwart of the union movement who had a lifelong commitment to working Australians.

He was an Assistant Secretary of the ACTU for 17 years and later distinguished himself as a Commissioner of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Bill Mansfield spent 39 years as a full-time union official.

Raised in Yarrawonga in northern Victoria, he began his working life as a telecommunications technician for the government-owned forerunner of Telstra, and became National Secretary of the Australian Telecommunications Employees Association at the age of 36.

Within the union movement, his contributions and interests ranged from occupational health and safety issues, vocational education and training, and industrial advocacy.

He sat on the Australian National Training Authority Board and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

He had a commitment to international institutions and as an elected member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation for six years he developed conventions that help working people globally.

On the Australian Industrial Relations Commission between 2002 and 2007, he earned the respect of both unions and employer representatives for his integrity and impartiality.

After his retirement as a union official, Bill continued to serve in a voluntary capacity as the ACTU's Returning Officer.

Bill was a popular colleague of ACTU staff both past and present and will be remembered fondly by all within the union movement for his generous nature and his passion to improve the lives of working people.

The ACTU extends its sincere condolences to Bill's wife, Joyce, and his family.

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