media release

Amid fight for David Jones jobs, pay day super a bright spot

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Australian Unions are pressing for the maximum number of jobs to be saved across David Jones department stores and the protection of all workers' financial and legal entitlements by the company's administrators.

Preserving jobs and workers' entitlements must come above all else when the administrator sits down to meet with creditors this week, including the SDA representing DJs retail workers.

The placement of the company under administration also highlights the critical importance of the new pay super laws, which came into force on 1 July this year.

Paying super at the same time as wages means that workers have more of their super in their account when companies go into administration.

Quotes attributable to ACTU Secretary, Melissa Donnelly:

"Keeping as many ongoing jobs as possible at David Jones is the main priority for the union movement, and the union representing DJs' workers' the SDA.

"Workers across the country are standing in solidarity with DJs workers, while they face an anxious wait for updates on the company's situation and the future of its stores. The one bright spot for staff is that their superannuation entitlements are up to date and protected.

"The new pay day super laws, which came into force on 1 July, mean employers pay super on every pay day so workers can be assured their super is safe and regularly being put aside for them.

"The David Jones administration is the first real test of why the laws are so important and why the union movement fought so hard for them. They are a lifeline, because DJs workers know that in the event of any redundancies, at least they can be secure in the knowledge that their super entitlements are paid up and protected.

"Before the pay day super laws came in, workers risked losing up to three months of their super entitlements if their company faced financial insecurity, risked going into administration or from blatant employer super theft.

"This is not just a protection for DJs workers but for workers in any vulnerable company and one the union movement will be keeping a close watch on to ensure workers' super and other entitlements are fully protected."

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