

15 FEBRUARY 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Central Highlands Regional Council Needs To Practice What It Preaches When It Comes To Domestic Violence Leave!

Central Highlands Regional Council has been all talk and not much action when it comes to providing a comprehensive Domestic and Family Violence Leave (DFVL) Policy for its workforce.

For over 12 months, The Services Union has been trying to persuade Council management to adopt a model DVFL Policy to ensure their workforce has access to the necessary support and safety in the workplace should they be affected by domestic or family violence.

With Queensland accounting for a quarter of the nation's domestic violence deaths in 2016, it is no longer good enough to pretend domestic violence is not a community and workplace issue. It can affect all aspects of a person's life and Council should be supporting their workforce by adopting a comprehensive DFVL Policy immediately.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said Council management have talked hard on DFVL publicly in the past, but has not delivered.

"The Council's demeanour is completely inconsistent with the stance taken by their own peak body, the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ). In 2015, the LGAQ organised a Day of Action to highlight the issue of Domestic and Family Violence," Mr Henderson said.

"Mayor Kerry Hayes has been extremely vocal about the vital need to raise community awareness around domestic and family violence and to ensure there is comprehensive support for people affected. Council has even organised community events around the issue of Domestic and Family Violence."

"The Mayor was also quoted last year in the media saying, 'We can all play a role in changing the culture and attitudes that underpin violence in our community. It's up to each and every one of us to come together and take action to show domestic and family violence is not acceptable, not now, not ever'. However, Council management has continually balked at adopting a sound DFVL policy which will ensure that affected employees are supported at work and better able to remain employed even though their home life might be in turmoil."

"It is not clear why Council are refusing to adopt our model DFVL Policy, but it is clear that every week that goes by is a week too long for those employees who may be affected by Domestic Violence and need assistance at work."

"We were hoping that Central Highlands Regional Council would have followed the lead of many other Councils and employers in the community who have realised the importance of embracing these policies for the benefits that are delivered to persons affected by violence in their home and the message that it sends to the broader community," Mr Henderson said.

"It is a real shame, this Council who so publicly voiced saying no to domestic violence are not willing to take a lead in their community and commit to a DFVL model clause for their employees."

REFERENCE: Central Queensland News- 13 May 2016 - 'No To Family and Domestic Violence' - <http://www.cqnews.com.au/news/no-to-family-and-domestic-violence/3024873/>

... ENDS

W theservicesunion.com.au

P 07 3844 5300
F 07 3846 5046

AUSTRALIAN MUNICIPAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL
AND SERVICES UNION QUEENSLAND
(SERVICES
AND NORTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE)
BRANCH
ABN 86 351 665 653

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

BRANCH SECRETARY:
Neil Henderson
ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Belinda Hogan-Collis, Media/Communications Officer on 07 3010 4446 or 0401 710 039.