

15 May 2018

Shane Rattenbury
Chair
Select Committee on Privileges
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2600
Via email - Max.Kiermaier@parliament.act.gov.au, rattenbury@act.gov.au

Dear Mr Rattenbury,

Thank you for your request that UnionsACT make a submission to the Standing Committee regarding the use of third party websites in generating submissions to parliamentary inquiries.

UnionsACT rejects the implication from the Terms of Reference that UnionsACT at any stage has breached Assembly Standing Orders, or at any stage acted unethically or inappropriately in engaging with Assembly inquiry processes.

UnionsACT strongly supports the use of web technology to assist, facilitate and enable individuals to make submissions to parliamentary inquiries, and we support the ACT Government's commitment to Open Government. UnionsACT would not support any changes to Assembly procedures or standing orders that would reduce or restrict the ability for civil society organisations to establish or use web technology for this purpose.

In reviewing the Select Committee's terms of reference, it appears that advice from the Assembly could assist civil society organisations on best-practice standards (e.g. technology standards).

Enclosed is a printed copy of the web form used by UnionsACT in 2017 to assist working people to make a submission to the Assembly inquiry into insecure work. It is important to note that the form was established for the purpose of sharing workers' stories of insecure work with UnionsACT. The individual worker at the conclusion of this process, was provided with the additional opportunity to also send selected information to the Assembly Committee via email.

In response to your specific questions, we provide these answers:

1/ how the website was administered

The UnionsACT website is administered by UnionsACT staff and officers.

2/ how many submissions it received

The UnionsACT web form received 65 entries. Separately, UnionsACT surveyed over 300 workers as part of our submission to the inquiry; those surveys did not use the web form.

3/ the process by which submissions were forwarded to the Standing Committee (i.e. was it automatic or was there human intervention)

Each individual was provided with the additional and explicit opportunity to themselves choose themselves to send, or not, selected information to the Select Committee. There was no intervention by any UnionsACT staff or officer in this regard.

4/ how many submissions were passed on to the committee

Our records indicate that 33 individuals chose to exercise the option to use our tool to send information to the Select Committee. The tool automatically sent that information via email to the Select Committee secretariat email address.

5/ were all submissions passed on; if not, why not

Where individuals requested that their information and story remain confidential and anonymous, UnionsACT respected that request and did not provide identifying information to the Select Committee.

6/ any other relevant matters

UnionsACT reiterates that the web tool used by UnionsACT in 2017 was created to enable working people to share their stories about insecure work primarily with UnionsACT. The web tool also provided an additional option to assist working people, if they chose, to directly share information via email to the Select Committee.

Thank you again for the request to make a submission to the Select Committee.

Yours sincerely



Alex White
Secretary
UnionsACT

Insecure Work: Share Your Story

Have you experienced casualisation or exploitation at work?

The ACT Assembly is conducting an inquiry into the impact of insecure, casualised work.

We want to ensure that the politicians hear real stories about what work is really like.

Share your story

Below is a form where we are going to prompt you with a series of questions that the inquiry into insecure work is looking to have answered. Please be as descriptive as possible.

You will have the option to keep your story anonymous, or send it directly to the Committee.

What kind of casualised work do you want to tell us about? *

Select ▼

Are you describing your current or previous job? *

Select ▼

What was your job title or description at the time? *

Pay and conditions

Were you paid fairly and correctly for the hours you worked? *

- Yes
- No

Do you believe your employer was complying with the law regarding your employment? *

- Yes
- No

Did you feel that you could discuss your pay and conditions without risking your job? *

- Yes
- No

Health and Safety

Was your work always safe? *

- Yes
- No

Were you told about WorkCover and what to do if you were injured? *

- Yes
- No

Did you feel you could discuss health and safety without risking your job? *

- Yes
- No

Personal Impact

Did you have a predictable roster that you could plan your life around? *

- Yes
- No

Could you or your co-workers organise childcare to suit your work schedule? *

- Yes
- No

Could you take leave when you needed without worrying about losing your job? *

- Yes
- No

Financial Security

Could you pay your bills and buy food each week? *

- Yes
- No

Could you pay your rent/mortgage when it was due? *

- Yes
- No

Did you feel confident about the future of your job and income? *

- Yes
- No

Solution

If you could improve things, and you were the ACT Government, what would you do?

If I were the Government, I would

Your details

You can provide this information anonymously. We need to collect your basic information but will not share it with the ACT Assembly unless you give your permission.

Name *

First

Last

Gender

Your mobile number

Email *

Enter Email

Confirm Email

We need this information to verify your submission.

Your Suburb *

Your Postcode *

Would you be prepared to consider coming to a public hearing and talking about your experience? *

Yes

No

Are you currently a union member? *

Yes

No

You don't need to be a union member to make a submission.

Optional

Can you tell us about your employer? *

Yes

No, prefer not to say

Finally

Do you wish your story to remain anonymous? *

Yes

No

Click [here to read the UnionsACT privacy policy](#).

Submission

I accept the privacy, terms and conditions. Information contained in my submission may be used by UnionsACT as part of its ongoing work to advance workers' rights.

I agree

Share Your Story

Frequently Asked Questions

What's this inquiry all about?

The ACT Assembly is holding a [formal inquiry into the impacts and extent of insecure work](#).

In simple terms, the government wants to know how widespread casualisation is in the ACT, and what it really means to everyday people.

A whole range of casualised and contracted-out work will be looked at by the committee, including labour hire, group training apprentice schemes, temporary

working visas, and contracting.

The ACT Assembly wants to hear stories from everyday people in Canberra about how casualisation has affected your life. This can include being mistreated, being made to work in unsafe conditions, or having financial stress or relationship problems as a result of casualisation.

[You can find out more about the inquiry at their website.](#)

What happens to the information I share on this page?

UnionsACT is providing this inquiry submission tool to allow everyday people to make a formal submission to the inquiry.

If you choose to, the information provided by you will be shared with the Inquiry. You can choose to make an anonymous submission, but it has more impact if you use your name.

All of the information you share will be recorded by UnionsACT, and we may use it in our submission to the inquiry. If you asked to remain anonymous, we won't identify you. Additionally, we may share your information with your union, if you are a member.

Read our privacy policy [here](#).

What are unions doing about insecure work and casualisation?

Great question!

Unions have been campaigning for decent, secure jobs for decades. We have been working across every industry and with both state and Federal governments of all political-persuasions to promote decent work.

More recently, UnionsACT has launched a Canberra-wide campaign to highlight and stop exploitation, wage-theft and insecure work.

[Find out more here.](#)

How can I get involved with my union?

Great question!

You can join your union by [clicking here](#).

Contact us

Phone: (02) 6225 8116

Fax: (02) 6225 8117

Email: unionsact@unionsact.org.au

Authorised by A White, UnionsACT, Level 1, 11 London Circuit, Canberra 2601.

[Privacy & Terms and Conditions](#).

Search the Site

UnionsACT acknowledges that its office sits in Ngunnawal country and we pay our respect to the past and present elders of the first inhabitants of this land.