



A•S•U

Australian Services Union NATIONAL OFFICE

The ASU National Office complements the work of ASU Branches with involvement in many key Union activities including industrial work and tribunal appearances, enterprise bargaining, national campaigning, communications and lobbying.

The National Office employs a number of highly experienced and skilled specialists who are able to assist Branches with projects including complex award and agreement matters and union rules matters. An understanding of historical precedents, our agreements with other unions and tribunal decisions means we are well placed to offer advice.

We also have specialists in research, policy, communications, national purchasing and other areas.

The National Office is an integral part of the ASU which is a ready resource to assist the Union's Branches in representing the interests of our members.



local government | airlines | utilities | info tech | social & community services | clerical & administrative | transport & travel | call centres

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ASU National Office...

Bargaining

 Bargaining with national employers is often coordinated and/or led by the National Office. We are also able to provide assistance to Branches undertaking state-based bargaining. We have prepared resource materials on bargaining to assist Branches which are available via our website.

Award maintenance

 The National Office was intensely involved in the award modernisation process, making submissions in over 100 matters. As a result we are extremely familiar with the new awards and are well placed to maintain them in the future - we coordinate the ASU's approach to the Modern Award Reviews. We also have access to an extensive history of award matters which can greatly assist in research for future cases.

Rules matters

 Forming the backbone of our right to cover our members, union rules can be daunting in their complexity and fraught with difficulties to amend. Rule changes by other unions can also affect ASU coverage. National Officers are intimately familiar with the ASU rules and have ensured our interests are protected during rule changes. We monitor rule changing activities by other unions to ensure there are no negative impacts for the ASU. We can also assist Branches with their rules.

Campaigning & lobbying

 Our Growth & Campaigns Team coordinates both industrial and political campaigns for the ASU. With the advent of professional lobbyists and lobbying companies, unions have had to become more sophisticated in their lobbying techniques. The Team is well versed in lobbying, particularly at the national level, having existing relationships with politicians and an understanding of how to arrange meetings with them on the issues we want to influence.

Legal

 In house expertise means the National Office is in a position to offer valuable legal opinions on a range of union work. We have lawyers with current practising certificates amongst our industrial staff. We are experienced in acting as instructing solicitors to brief barristers for major cases.

National representation

 Many consultative groups are set up nationally, requiring information to be distributed broadly and groups to be briefed. National Officers serve on these groups, including Industry Reference Committees (eg. GSA, IBSA Aspire, etc), ACTU committees (eg. Women, OHS, Indigenous, etc), etc, on behalf of our Branches to ensure everyone is kept in the loop.

...what we do

Communications

 The National Office is well positioned to deliver information across the Union. Via the national website and our social media presence, we can disseminate news quickly and effectively, greatly adding to take up of campaign actions. We use these capabilities for both national and Branch campaigns. We perform a media liaison function for the whole Union as National Office is often the first port of call and we coordinate internal info dissemination of media mentions, campaign asks, ACTU info, etc.

Research & submissions

 We have access to a wide range of industrial resources that put the National Office in a position to do comprehensive research. An increasing part of our work has been ensuring the voice of our members is heard in political forums including Senate Inquiries and Productivity Commission investigations. The National Office has produced numerous national submissions over the years and can assist Branches produce state focussed submissions also.

Policy development

 Tying in with our research capacity, National Office is able to work on policy development for the national Union or particular Branches. Policies articulate the Union's position on matters of significance and need to reflect a full understanding of all related matters. We are also involved in ACTU policy development.

Network coordination

 When ASU Branches want to work together on areas of common interest, National Officers are well placed to assist with coordination. Examples include GLAM, ASU OHS network, etc.

Training

 The National Office provides Right of Entry training to allow for the award of certificates recognised by FWC for the issuing of entry permits. We have also provided training on union governance. Other training is available upon request.

International

 The ASU is affiliated with three global unions, the PSI, UNI and ITF, as well as having associations with ITUC, the ILO and overseas unions covering similar members to our own. Our international links allow us to participate in international campaigns and to access international support for our own campaigns. It also means we have networks to pursue multinational employers.

Administration

 The National Office is in a unique position to offer Branches coordinated purchasing power. This has delivered cheaper telecommunications for the ASU, better insurance deals and access to competitively priced merchandise via the ASUshop.

ASU National Officers



National Secretary David Smith

The Chief Executive Officer of the ASU. Ensures the legislative obligations of the Union are fulfilled and that the national elected

representatives of the ASU meet regularly to determine the direction of the Union. Superannuation industry experience. Previously the Secretary of the ASU Qld Services Branch. Originally from the rail industry. Director of UnionShopper. *Diploma of Financial Services (Superannuation)*
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Compliance and Legal Officer John Nucifora

Manages compliance requirements of the Union as a registered organisation under Fair Work legislation

and as governed by the ASU Rules. Coordinates all Rules matters. Provision of legal/industrial advice, FWC advocacy. ASU rep on ACTU OHS/Workers' Compensation Committee. With ASU since 1981. *Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts, Grad Dip. Labour Relations Law*

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Communications Officer Brigid Marasco

Management of national communications including websites & social media. Writes & edits content for

online & other materials. Assists with campaigns, projects and provides advice to National Officers & Branches. Media liaison, design & desktop publishing & project management of external suppliers. Industrial experience. *Bachelor of Arts (Dean's List)*

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Research Officer Jody Miles

Involved in a range of research tasks including writing submissions to various inquiries, performs corporate research in preparation

for bargaining as well as award and agreement analysis. Also participates on award reviews. Manages our industrial resources and records system. *Graduate Certificate in Employment Relations*

jkmiles@asu.asn.au • 0438 207 720



Assistant National Secretary Linda White

Leader of the Campaigns & Growth Team. Involved in political lobbying campaigns in Canberra. Campaign

focus includes superannuation & retirement of women and other low paid workers. Experience with companies in administration (via Ansett). *Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Commerce*

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Campaigns & Growth Coordinator Emeline Gaske

Member of the Campaigns & Growth Team. Conducting national bargaining and campaigns in growth areas

of the ASU's coverage. Before coming to the ASU Emeline worked as a solicitor at Maurice Blackburn in employment and industrial relations, and has been a long time member of the ASU. *Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Bachelor of Arts (Hons)*

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Industrial Officer Justin Cooney

Member of the Campaigns & Growth Team. National bargaining in growth areas of the ASU's coverage. Previously worked in Vic Govt as an

Industrial Relations Advisor and worked as an Industrial Officer at Meatworkers (Syd) and Plumbers (Melb) unions. Also worked at AIRC. Started with the ASU at the Victorian Private Sector Branch. *Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economics*

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Assistant National Secretary Robert Potter

Leader of the Industrial Team which works on national bargaining, award reviews and test cases, along with

related political lobbying. Previously worked in the NSW United Services Branch (USU) as organiser in local government and the private sector.

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Industrial Officer Michael Rizzo

Member of the Industrial Team and delivers training for union officials. Distributes commentary of major decisions. With ASU since

1992, 18 years as Assistant Branch Secretary in Victoria. Largely worked in the energy and water industries and has previously been a municipal councillor and chairperson of a migrant resource centre in Melbourne. *Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Dip Ed, Master of Arts*

mrizzo@asu.asn.au • 0418 513 843



Industrial Officer Joanne Knight

Member of the Industrial Team. Responsible for national bargaining, involving good faith bargaining orders, scope orders & protected

action ballots. Also, modern award reviews and maintenance. Convenor of the ASU National Women's Consultative Committee. Previously National Research Officer and a recruitment and campaigns officer in the NSW United Services Branch.

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Industrial Officer Michael Robson

Member of the industrial team. Michael works with our members in bargaining and disputes. He comes to the ASU from United Voice, where he

worked on major award matters, such as the Penalty Rates Case, and national bargaining. Michael is based in the Sydney National Office.

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