



“TO KNOW THAT MY WORKPLACE SUPPORTED ME AND THAT I HAD LEAVE TO DO THINGS LIKE ATTENDING COURT HEARINGS WOULD HAVE MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE.”

Rosie Batty | Australian of the Year

Australian Unions

REVERSE FUNDING CUTS

Sign the [Change.org](http://bit.ly/sm-pet072015) petition asking the Federal Coalition Government to invest in quality community services instead of cutting funding: <http://bit.ly/sm-pet072015>



save our
community
services



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE & COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING CUTS

TRIGGER WARNING Supporting victims to maintain their employment and the financial stability that comes with it is critical to helping them get by. **EACH WEEK TWO PEOPLE DIE AS A RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA.** AND MORE THAN 400,000 PEOPLE EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EACH YEAR - TWO THIRDS OF THEM ARE IN WORK.

AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION MEMBERS IN THE SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR PICK UP THE PIECES WHEN LIVES FALL APART DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS. That's why the Australian Services Union pioneered paid domestic violence leave at Surf Coast Council in 2010 and unions have since secured it for over 1.6 million workers. Our current campaign is to bring this right to all Australian workers. **Compounding the problems with addressing domestic violence are Federal Government funding cuts to the sector that provides services to victims, the not for profit social and community services sector.**

GOVERNMENT FUNDING CUTS TO THE COMMUNITY SECTOR NEED TO BE REVERSED TO FULLY ADDRESS THESE SOCIAL EVILS. Australian of the Year Rosie Batty said governments need to reassess their priorities and allocate more funding to preventing and responding to domestic violence. Universal domestic violence leave will be a great advance achieved by unions, but unless the community services are there to assist victims of abuse and other social problems, progress in reducing the incidence of domestic violence will be seriously stalled.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE?

Paid domestic violence leave recognises that workers experiencing domestic violence often have exhausted their personal leave entitlements and don't have access to paid leave when they most need it.

Domestic violence is a social issue that must be tackled and taken seriously by all members of our community, including employers.

Unions and employers have negotiated over 500 workplace agreements which provide domestic violence leave, across a wide range of industries including local government, social

and community services, transport, manufacturing, energy, construction and the public sector.

The ASU led the way in Australia with the first leave clause achieved in a Victorian council in 2010.

More than 1.6 million employees are now covered but it's time to extend the right to all employees.

THE ACTU CLAIM

The ACTU has filed a claim with the Fair Work Commission to get Paid Domestic Violence Leave included in all Awards.

If successful, this claim will:

- Directly benefit more than 6 million workers.
- Provide for 10 days paid domestic violence leave for workers to attend court appearances, medical and legal appointments and make safety and re-location arrangements.



BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

FIGHT FOR OUR LIVING STANDARDS

WHY DO WE NEED PAID DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE & PROTECTIONS AT WORK?

Paid domestic violence leave and protections at work help victims of domestic violence to maintain safe and secure employment. It is a cost effective way of preventing the financial stress that workers facing domestic violence often have to deal with. It also helps employers maintain a stable workforce.

KEY FACTS

Paid domestic leave prevents further harm to someone's long term health & wellbeing.



AND REDUCES THE RISK OF POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COSTS THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY



\$16.8 BILLION EACH YEAR.

Paid domestic violence leave sends a strong message to the community.

MORE THAN

400,000 PEOPLE

experience domestic violence each year (mostly women)



THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS UNACCEPTABLE

