

Let's Save ahm

The United Services Union (USU) has launched a petition to urge Australian Health Management fund (ahm) CEO, Mick McLeod, not to go ahead with the takeover by Medibank.

Hundreds of workers in Wollongong face an uncertain future while Mr McLeod decides the fate of ahm.

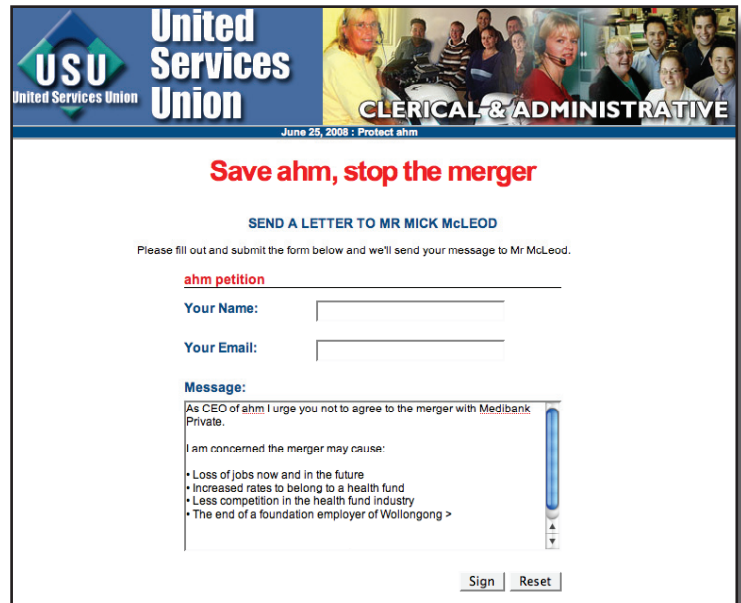
The USU fears the proposed merger would lead to loss of jobs, increased health fund rates, less competition in the health fund industry and the end of a foundation employer of Wollongong.

"ahm is an icon of Wollongong, without it we face local job losses both now and for our children," USU Southern Branch organiser, Rudi Oppitz said.

The USU has launched this petition to rally local support so we can block this merger.

"The employees who face job losses have families and mortgages and do not need this added stress," USU General Secretary Ben Kruse said.

"We urge everyone in the region to sign this petition so the CEO of ahm can hear the voice of the people."



The screenshot shows a web form for a petition. At the top, it says 'Save ahm, stop the merger' in red. Below that, it says 'SEND A LETTER TO MR MICK McLEOD'. A small instruction reads: 'Please fill out and submit the form below and we'll send your message to Mr McLeod.' The form has three main sections: 'ahm petition', 'Your Name:' with a text input field, and 'Your Email:' with a text input field. Below these is a 'Message:' section with a text area. The message text reads: 'As CEO of ahm I urge you not to agree to the merger with Medibank Private. I am concerned the merger may cause:' followed by a bulleted list: '• Loss of jobs now and in the future', '• Increased rates to belong to a health fund', '• Less competition in the health fund industry', and '• The end of a foundation employer of Wollongong >'. At the bottom right of the message area are 'Sign' and 'Reset' buttons.

Go to www.usu.org.au/save_ahm.html and send your message to save ahm

Did you know??

This fund (formerly known as the Local Government Employees Health Fund) was set up by former MEU/ USU member Roy Johnson, who encouraged workers in local government to form ahm some 35 years ago. From those small numbers we have ahm which now employs some 350 employees, offers first class benefits to its members, contributes substantially to the Illawarra economy. A loss of such an organisation must not occur. This merger will see less competition and increased health fund rates.

Our message to Mr McLeod is simple – listen to your community and do not let the takeover of ahm by Medibank Private go ahead.

All employees are encouraged to join the USU. Application forms can be obtained from the website www.usu.org.au or by ringing the USU Support Team on 1300 136 604.