



**Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash**  
**Minister for Employment**  
**Minister for Women**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service**

Mark Bielecki  
Registered Organisations Commissioner  
GPO Box 2983  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Tabled doc #: 6  
Tabled by: Senator Cameron  
Date: 27/10/17

Dear Commissioner

*Referral of matters relating to the Australian Workers Union*

I refer to recent media reports (enclosed) regarding a donation of \$100,000 reportedly made by the Australian Workers Union to the political organisation "Get Up" in 2005. These reports have questioned whether or not this donation was validly authorised in accordance with the AWU's rules.

I am advised that Rule 57 of the AWU's rules, as they applied in 2005 to donations by the AWU, required that the donation had to be approved by the National Executive of the union and must otherwise be in accordance with the rules:

*RULE 57 – LOANS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS*

- (1) *A loan, grant or donation, must not be made by the Union or any Branch as the case may be, unless the National Executive of the Union has:*
  - (a) *Satisfied itself:*
    - i. *that the making of the loan, grant or donation, would be in accordance with the Rules of the Union; and*
    - ii. *in relation to a loan, that, in the circumstances, the security proposed to be given for the repayment of the loan is adequate and the proposed arrangements for the repayment of the loan are satisfactory and;*
  - (b) *Approved the making of the loan, grant or donation.*
- (2) *Nothing in sub-clause (1) is to affect a Branch's power to make donations, less than \$1,000. However, National Executive may from time to time set a maximum donation figure lower than \$1,000.*

I note that it has been reported that the AWU has not been able to indicate whether this rule was observed in this case. Accordingly, I request that you give consideration to investigating this matter in any way that you may consider appropriate.

Yours sincerely

MICHAELIA CASH

15/8 /2017