



VICTORIAN TRADES HALL COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION TO SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017 & related Bills

PREAMBLE

The Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) was founded in 1856 and is the peak body for unions in Victoria. VTHC represents approximately 40 unions and over 400,000 workers in Victoria. These workers are members of unions that reach into every industry in the state, both in the public and private sectors.

Since gaining the Eight Hour Day in April 1856, VTHC has had a long history of fighting for and defending the rights of workers in Victoria. The importance of winning the eight hour day is significant not just in Australia but worldwide. Few advances in the quality of life for working people would have been achieved without the involvement of the Victorian union movement.

Over the last 160 years, VTHC and its affiliated unions have campaigned for and successfully won a range of important rights and entitlements for Victorian (and Australian) workers, including:

- Minimum wage
- Penalty rates
- Collective bargaining rights
- Freedom of association and the right to representation
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) protections
- Annual as well as sick (and carer's) Leave
- Maternity and parental leave
- Domestic violence leave
- Superannuation
- Protections from unfair dismissal and redundancy entitlements, and
- Long service leave

VTHC will continue to campaign tirelessly for the rights, entitlements and protections of workers in Victoria, no matter their employment status, employer or workplace.

VTHC recognises the role of leave entitlements, both historically and in today's hectic and demanding working life. The changing nature of today's modern workforce means some leave entitlements, as they currently stand, should be updated.

It has been over ten years since the last review of the Long Service Leave (LSL) Act and VTHC acknowledges that the time is right for a fresh review. VTHC also believes that this enquiry presents an opportunity for Victoria to establish itself as the leader in providing long service leave entitlements that equally benefit all workers, and reflect the nature of today's modern working conditions.

SUBMISSION

VTHC has read and agrees with the submission made by by the AMWU.

We support its recommendations.