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EB NEWSLETTER

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**Future Campaign
action –
standingwithus.com**



Campaign Action

Our combined Firefighters, Communication Officers and Ambulance Officers rally was an impressive show of solidarity which received widespread publicity and media attention. Congratulations to all members and supporters for making the event a success.

Brisbane region roster officers will undertake a 24 hour stoppage on Monday 27 August 2012. Congratulations to those members undertaking that strike as part of the broader campaign.

Firefighters and Communication Officers will be balloted by the Electoral Commission of Queensland next month to measure support for the taking of protected action in the forms of bans and limitations. The ballot will open in early September. We will update you about these ballots when they open. Your union is encouraging an overwhelming 'yes' vote in these ballots so we can strengthen our campaign.

UFUQ delegates are pairing with United Voice ambulance delegates and will be arranging to lobby local MP's. These delegates will lobby MP's about the government's hard line bargaining stance and try to get some common sense conveyed back to government. Ask your delegate in your region as to the progress on these visits.

If you haven't already, please remember to visit the UFUQ-United Voice www.standingwithus.com website to register your support and build our broader community network of support.

Also, if you haven't already, sign the petition at <http://www.change.org/petitions/minister-for-community-safety-we-want-our-minister-to-stand-with-us-not-against-us> and circulate amongst your friends and social networks.



Contact us:

John Oliver
State Secretary

Ground Floor
286 Montague Road
West End QLD 4101

07 3844 0366

eb@ufuq.com.au

<http://www.ufuq.com.au>



UFUQ need a strong presence at the QCU combined unions' Brisbane rally on 12 September 2012. I will send out further specific information seeking your attendance commitment later next week. In the meantime, if possible, please keep that date clear so you can attend.

The government's current enterprise bargaining demands are immediately challenging and we must fight to support our rights. Beyond the current negotiations, however we must be under no illusions about the state government's intentions. The government has embarked upon an aggressive campaign which will continue to jeopardise job security and employment conditions for the next couple of years. As firefighters we need to build even stronger community support throughout EB discussions and continuing even after negotiations conclude. I urge all members to join in wherever possible with the campaign.

Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) conciliation

Unions attended a report back meeting at the QIRC on Friday 24 August 2012. Further report back conferences will be scheduled after more negotiations have occurred.

Negotiations update

As I have previously advised negotiations are ongoing and are difficult due to the raft of demands made by the QFRS. We are continuing our efforts to try to reach an acceptable package for members to consider, but we will not be baited by the sniff of modest pay increases. We will not impatiently blunder into a trap of sub-standard and dangerous conditions.

UFUQ has coordinated meetings of other unions which are party to the current QFRS agreement. Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) affiliated unions (UFUQ, Together, AMWU, ETU, CFMEU) have maintained a united position of rejecting pay rise inducements and making it clear that unions will not be pressured into tearing up our current conditions.

The Union is determined to do whatever we can to maintain our united stance in defending your rights.

John Oliver
State Secretary

Authorised by John Oliver State Secretary United Firefighters Union of Australia Union of Employees Queensland