



United Firefighters Union of Australia

Tasmania Branch

Protecting Professional Firefighters since 1943

Mr Stuart Benson
State Secretary
Tasmanian Labor

Re: Worker Values

Dear Mr ^{Stuart}~~Benson~~

The United Firefighters Union of Australia – Tasmania Branch calls on Tasmanian Labor MPs to uphold the union and Australian values of democracy, collectivism, solidarity, equality and fairness.

We believe that all MPs should uphold union and Australian values and we expect that Tasmanian Labor MPs will act in the best interests of traditional Labor communities by upholding these values. Workers will not accept platitudes on fairness and equality; we want to see them acted upon.

Labor was created by workers who thought it should be legal to form a union and ask for reasonable pay, conditions and safety at work. Unions and workers do not exist to support the parliamentary Labor members. The Labor Party and its parliamentary members exist to support workers. Tasmanian Labor will not be able to reflect workers' values or win government until this is reconciled.

The right of people to be safe at work, free of harassment or discrimination are core Labor values and must be upheld with vigour. These values and other human rights issues must not continue to be manipulated and used as leverage to serve particular political interests. To do so, is disingenuous and calls into serious question the commitment our leaders have toward working Tasmanians who rely on Labor to protect them from the unjust agenda of those who would repress the rights of workers.

The Tasmanian Labor Bullying Harassment Victimisation and Discrimination Policy provides clear guidance for resolving issues within our party. It does not recommend that we utilise the media and manipulate those at risk for individual ends. If there are any genuine procedural flaws in investigations, specific examples should be provided along with suggested changes to be implemented in the policy.

Wages are falling in comparison to the cost of living and insecure work is on the rise. There is a rapidly increasing homeless population and it is becoming more difficult to access medical care if you cannot afford to pay. Tasmanians' are doing it tough and we need our parliamentary representatives to work together as a team to deliver a better future for our communities.

As an affiliate union, our members expect Labor MPs to act in accordance with our shared values.

Kind regards

Leigh Hills
Branch Secretary
United Firefighters Union of Australia – Tasmania Branch