

THE ASU VOLUNTEER ORGANISING PROGRAM

In November 2004 the ASU launched the inaugural Volunteer Organising Program.

The idea behind this program is for a number of delegates to be seconded to the union office for 2 weeks to participate in an organising campaign in an ASU workplace. Often this has been in a low density or new ASU site but sometimes the campaign is in an established ASU workplace.

A training and mentoring program is incorporated into the 2 week secondment.

Why do we need a Volunteer Organising Program?

In the interests of fairness and justice for all workers our union needs to organise in the non union sector. All the research shows that union members are much more likely to have better working conditions and receive wage increases more often than their non-union counterparts.

The gap between union and non-union wages is approximately 15% and the gap is even wider if you are casual or part time worker.

This growing gap also represents a threat to unionised workers. It may be that the biggest threat to unionised workers is not their own employer but the non-union employer across the road.

The volunteer organising program is an opportunity for delegates to get involved in the ongoing campaign to unionise new areas of the economy and get hands on experience organising workers.

How does the union resource the Volunteer Program?

In 2000 the union set up the ASU Education and Training Trust to help fund union education and activism.

Elected members of the Branch Executive are trustees of the ASU E&T Trust. The trust now has sufficient funds to facilitate and support the Volunteer Organising Program.

How can you get involved?

A limited number of positions will be available to delegates in the program to be run in late June 2010. When the dates are announced all those interested will be asked to fill out an expression of interest and the Branch Executive will be responsible for selecting the participants.

Delegates may have to take some leave without pay if paid training is unavailable though some costs can be reimbursed through the Education & Training Trust. Flexibility can be arranged for part time workers interested in participating.

For further information contact ASU Branch Secretary Ingrid Stitt on 9320 6700.