

Time to check ACIRT arrears

CFMEU Organisers, with the help of ACIRT national co-ordinator Dennis Matthews, are making sure workers are not ripped off. During 2006, the union recovered \$703,445 in ACIRT arrears, benefiting union members.

For a full list of companies that monies were received from visit www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au

To check your ACIRT account, phone 1800 060 467

Union gets results \$300,000 paid to workers

The CFMEU has recently been in dispute with Formbrace NSW and related companies FB Industries Pty Ltd and Formbrace Holdings Pty Ltd, in respect of underpayment and late payment of redundancy and superannuation. Some members were owed superannuation from December 2005.

One member, Jose Tapia was having \$400 per week deducted from his pay (salary sacrifice) for superannuation but the money was not paid to CBUS. The union negotiated payment of all his salary sacrifice deductions, interest and outstanding 9 per cent superannuation payments totalling \$15,116.50 and \$20,890.27 for another member.

Another member, Ante Juric was underpaid \$1648.59 in superannuation during four months of employment. This has now been paid in full. The union also negotiated payment of an additional \$145,879.10 in outstanding superannuation payments to CBUS and \$108,987.07 in redundancy payments to ACIRT.

The company reluctantly agreed to pay interest of 10% to the ACIRT and 12% to CBUS accounts in compensation for the late payments. Formbrace resigned out of ACIRT in October but have been required to pay ACIRT from November, December and January.

Members should check ACIRT and CBUS accounts to ensure their entitlements have been paid in full.

Victories despite Howard



MONEY IN HAND

James Walters thanks Organiser Brett Scully

The introduction of the Howard Government's anti-worker legislation (WorkChoices) is a serious attack on the wages and entitlements of ordinary workers. These new laws are also trying to stop your union from helping members with their workplace problems – but it's not working.

Despite their best efforts, the Federal Government's laws did not prevent your union from recovering millions of dollars owed last year to CFMEU members. More than \$4.5 million was processed through the wage claims department in 2006, representing unpaid wages and entitlements for more than 1650 union members.

Be aware that the union has retained the right to represent workers – most importantly, unions have the legal right to inspect employer wage and employment records. If you have a problem or need advice in relation to wages, superannuation payments, annual leave or any other wage or employment related matter, please do not hesitate to contact the union for advice. We have specialist officers who can provide you with expert information.

Wage Complaint forms can also be downloaded from the union's website at www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com/wageclaims.htm – Keryn McWhinney

New benefit from CBUS

Important changes have been made to Cbus's death and total disability package following union negotiations. Members insured for death and total and permanent disability (TPD) will be eligible for a new benefit known as the Terminal Illness Benefit.

Any member who is diagnosed as having a terminal illness (from November 27 last year) and has a life expectancy of less than 12 months will be eligible to be paid an equal amount to the members insured TPD benefit from the date of diagnosis.

Members receiving a TPD benefit will continue to be covered for the balance of their Death cover provided they remain in Cbus and insurance premiums continue to be paid.

The future Death benefit payable (to their beneficiary) will be the difference between their usual insured Death benefit and the Terminal Illness benefit already paid.

New members joining the fund will be able to select up to six units of cover without providing any health evidence. Those eligible for the non-manual

scale will need to satisfy CBUS that their annual income is greater than \$100,000 to receive more than four units.

The level of cover automatically provided to new members aged 21 and over who do not select a number of units will increase from two to four units.

For new members under 21 years the automatic cover level remains at two, but will increase automatically to four units on their 21st birthday.

Current members with more than one unit of insurance in active employment on November 27 last year will also be eligible for the increased cover.

One important thing will not change. The cost of a unit of insurance remains at \$1.95 per week for the eighth consecutive year.

These increases in insurance benefits are important for workers. Construction can be a dangerous game and the new cover levels mean that members and their families will be able to meet mortgage and other commitments.