



By your side

17 JUNE 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

LONG SERVICE LEAVE NOW PORTABLE FOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS IN QLD!

Employees in the Queensland Social and Community Services Industry will now have access to Portable Long Service Leave (PLSL).

Legislation, brought by the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations the Hon. Grace Grace MP, has just passed in the Queensland Parliament in what was a historic decision to ensure that these employees are finally recognised for the important frontline work they do in our communities.

Members of The Services Union have been campaigning for many years to have such a scheme established.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said this is an industry which supports the most vulnerable members of our community.

“This is an industry where the majority of employees are women and the work requires immense dedication and commitment,” Mr Henderson said.

“For the majority of Social and Community Service employees, the establishment of a PLSL Scheme means they will finally have their service acknowledged and after seven years of being within the Scheme they will have an entitlement to paid Long Service Leave”.

The Services Union conducted a survey of workers in the Industry in 2017 which showed that 80 per cent of workers had worked at up to five employers within 10 years of service in the Industry. Of the respondents who had over 10 years of service in the Industry, a staggering 72 per cent of had never achieved Long Service Leave.

Mr Henderson said much of the Social and Community Services Industry is dependant on government funding contracts of three to five years duration which results in employees in the industry churning through jobs.

“When coupled with the demanding nature of the work, achieving enough service with one employer to access Long Service Leave has been all but impossible for the majority of employees,” Mr Henderson said.

The PLSL Scheme will commence on a date to be made by proclamation and covers all workers employed by organisations established for the purpose of delivering Social and Community Services.

There are PLSL Schemes for Social and Community Services workers already operating in the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Similar schemes have been in place in Queensland for Contract Cleaning and Construction workers for some time.

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