



# UNION FEE INCREASE

## QUARTERLY ACCOUNT MEMBERS

Arising from a National Executive decision in February 2023, there is an increase in union fees.

The new membership fees operative from **1 July 2023** will be as follows:

Level	Per Week	Per Quarter
20 hours per week or more	\$11.30	\$146.90
10 but less than 20 hours per week	\$8.05	\$104.65
Less than 10 hours per week	\$4.50	\$58.50

### REASON FOR FEE INCREASE

The SDA has worked very hard to protect members through the extraordinary Covid 19 pandemic.

We successfully lobbied for a Government wage subsidy to protect the jobs and income of members in retail and fast food sites that were forced to close in 2020 and 2021. The Federal Government implemented Job Keeper.

We argued for our ten point health and safety plan for members in sites that were permitted to open during the lockdowns and companies agreed to most of our demands including perspex screens, alcohol based hand sanitiser, social distancing markers on the floor and cashless transactions where practicable.

We argued for the right of our members in distribution centres to work in a safe environment protected from Covid.

We argued for a recognition payment for our members who were on the front line as essential workers and won it in many instances.

When the Fair Work Commission most unfairly delayed the Annual Wage Review increase for our members on two occasions in 2020 and 2021 we were successful in getting a number of companies to pay the increase early.

The SDA campaigned for a fair wage increase to be paid on time in 2022 resulting in most retail workers and fast food workers receiving a 4.7% pay increase and it was paid on time on 1 July 2022.

The SDA in Victoria achieved payments exceeding \$50,000 last year for members subject to unfair dismissal, over \$8,000 under General Protections legislation, over \$50,000 in equal opportunity matters, over \$80,000 in WorkCover matters and over \$20,000 in underpayment matters.

The SDA is currently in the Court system pursuing underpayments at McDonalds and is pursuing underpayments in Aldi.

The SDA has dealt with over 13,000 member queries/issues by email and phone in the last year in addition to all the matters dealt with by our organising team.

The SDA has paid out more than \$100,000 in benefits to members over the last year under our accident insurance policy which automatically covers every financial member.

The SDA has a busy year in 2023.

We will argue for a significant wage increase in the Annual Wage Review due in July and to be paid on time and not delayed.

We have a very busy schedule of enterprise agreements due to be negotiated in most major companies in retail and fast food.

We have a very busy schedule of enterprise agreements to be negotiated in distribution centres.

Our work involves a number of activities including:

- ◆ Providing service to 50,000 members across some 3,000 sites throughout Victoria
- ◆ Lobbying State and Federal governments over issues and matters that impact on our members and their families
- ◆ Representing members both individually and collectively in various tribunals and courts

The union is confident that our new fee levels will enable us to continue to function on a sound financial basis and meet the challenges we will face in the next two years.

## **TAX DEDUCTION**

Union fees are tax deductible for those members who pay tax. In other words, the cost of paying fees is discounted by an amount equal to your marginal tax rate. So don't forget to claim your fees when you submit your tax return.

## **OTHER UNION FEES**

The SDA's fees even after this increase are modest compared to other unions and unlike some unions we have a special scale so that if you work fewer hours union fees are less.

Note that a casual who does not receive hours of work in any fortnight does not pay union fees. They only pay in the fortnights they work.

**Authorised by: Michael Donovan, SDA State Secretary**