



**PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INC.  
NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH**  
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Message of support to the National Day of Action 'Your Rights at Work' Community and Union Meetings in the Northern Territory from the Public Health Association of Australia NT Branch.

Dear Friends,

The Northern Territory Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) stands with you in support of the union and community campaign to overturn the current Commonwealth Industrial Relations legislation..

The Public Health Association nationally represents over 40 public health professions.

The PHAA (NT) believes that it is vital to remove socio-economic inequalities in order to address health inequalities. Therefore we are deeply concerned with the impacts of the changed Industrial Relations laws in Australia for the following reasons:

- The existence of social inequalities, particularly in the widening gap in income inequalities, is a cause of health inequality between social classes,
- Absolute poverty is a cause of ill health regardless of relative levels of affluence,
- Health inequalities related to social position are carried across generations,
- Alienation, or the sense of lack of control over your own life, including fear of confronting injustice in your own workplace or having a say over workplace issues that effect you, cause stress, which is harmful to worker's (and their families) health,
- And increased pressure to work longer hours for less pay leads to having less time to spend with families, depriving children of vital contact time with their parents and placing increased pressures upon families.

The nature of many of the major public health issues (alcohol and substance misuse, poor nutrition, poor sanitation, housing overcrowding, low levels of education completion and poor access to health care) in the NT will only be exacerbated by a decline in income, increased poverty and feelings of alienation.

The PHAA (NT) believes that it is vital that government policy should be aimed at reducing socio- economic related health inequalities. The PHAA (NT) therefore supports the removal of inequitable laws such as the current Commonwealth Industrial Relations legislation.

Yours in solidarity,

CLIVE ROSEWARNE.

President

NT Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia.