
Media Alert – Wednesday, 31 October 2007

‘Cripps Nubake’ staff celebrate new bargaining agreement today and voice concern about the effect of ‘Workchoices’ on local workers in Launceston

Workers from ‘Cripps Nubake’ in Launceston will join thousands of workers from all over Australia tomorrow Wednesday October 31 as part of an effort to inform the local community that the Howard Government’s extreme workplace laws are hurting working people.

The workers along with Cripps’ State Manager for Sales and Distribution Paul Gadomski and LHMU Secretary David O’Byrne will hold a press conference and host a BBQ at the end of night shift to celebrate the completion of a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

Cripps could have used ‘Workchoices’ to push staff onto AWAs, instead they chose to bargain fairly and constructively with their workforce.

LHMU Secretary, David O’Byrne said:

“It’s important that we mark this moment when an employer like Cripps, who could have gone down the ‘Workchoices’ path, chose instead a process of co-operation and negotiation with its workforce.

“We are at a crossroads at this election. There is the Howard Workchoices path which pushes staff onto AWAs and undermines the employment relationship, or there is the path which respects the right of employers to make a profit and also respects the right of employees to have decent wages and conditions and a voice in their working future.

“We know that workers on collective agreements earn at least \$100 more a week than workers on AWA contracts. The workers at Cripps are working together to make sure that the people of Launceston understand what effect ‘Workchoices’ will have on them and their children as fewer and fewer businesses agree to sit down at the bargaining table and the Australian spirit of building prosperity through co-operation is broken down.”, said Mr O’Byrne.

Cripps’ State Manager for Sales and Distribution Paul Gadomski said:

“Today is a celebration of co-operation. Collective bargaining is not always easy but it creates respect all round, respect for the employer’s need to have an efficient business making a profit and respect for workers and their right to decent wages and conditions.

“At the end of the process, management understands the issues employees have in trying to juggle work/life balance as well as budget pressures and employees have a greater understanding of the business.

“I think this is what the future should look like for all workplaces”, said Mr Gadomski.

MEDIA ALERT

Who - Cripps Nubake workers, Secretary LHMU David O’Byrne and Cripps’ State Manager Sales and Distribution Paul Gadomski.
What - Press conference, BBQ & handing out flyers to community
When – Wed 31st October 9.30 am to 10.30 am
Where – Cripps Nubake 11 Hobart Road South Launceston

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