

"Since joining my union, I have felt safer and more respected at work."

How can joining the union improve my work conditions?

Unions are workers just like you, who join together to improve wages and conditions at work. Joining a union is a common and easy way to ensure you are protected at work in Australia. Around 2 million workers are union members. Any worker can join a union. It doesn't matter if you are an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or hold a temporary work visa. If you work part time, full time, casual or even cash-in-hand, you can join a union.

There are many unions in Australia based on what type of job you do - there is a union for every worker.

Have you ever felt something was unfair or unsafe at work, but felt afraid to speak to your boss about it?

There are many laws which protect workers in Australia, but as an individual - it can be hard to make sure your boss follows these laws or treats you fairly.

When you join a union, you are joining together with other workers to make your workplace better. Joining a union means that you can:

- Get your correct wages if your boss is underpaying you
- Access support if you are injured at work or experiencing harassment and bullying
- Defend against being unfairly fired
- Unite with your workmates to resolve workplace problems and access legal representation
- Improve safety at work, including electing a representative
- Be treated with respect and dignity at work
- Negotiate collectively with other workers to improve your wages and conditions
- In Australia, union members earn, on average, \$250 per week more than non-union members.

Except for some circumstances, unions usually only provide support to workers who are already members, so it's important to join as soon as you can, before you have a problem.

Union members in Australia have won:

- A guaranteed minimum wage
- The 8 hour workday
- Paid time off if you are sick or want to take a holiday
- Higher pay for working on weekends and holidays
- Workplace safety laws
- Paid parental leave
- Equal pay for women

And much more.

Join the movement to continue improving pay and conditions in your workplace and for workers everywhere:

www.australianunions.org.au/join



What happens after I join?

When you join a union, you pay a weekly or monthly membership. This fee is tax deductible.

Once you become a union member, you can contact your union for advice and help with workplaces issues. This means if your boss unfairly dismisses you or if you are injured at work - you can get help from your union.

If there are other union members at your workplace, there may be union meetings you can attend where you can raise concerns and organise together for better work conditions.

Will my workplace know if I join the union?

Your employer and others at your workplace won't know you've joined the union and you don't need to tell them unless if you want to. Australian workplace laws protect your right to be a union member. Your boss can't punish you for being a part of a union.

Your boss may tell you that you don't need the union, or that your workplace already has good conditions. But your boss will always have more power to make decisions at the workplace. When workers come together in a union, you have more collective power to negotiate and win better conditions.


What if the workplace already has a union?

That's great! By joining with the other workers, you'll have more power to ensure working conditions continue to improve. You'll be supporting your workmates to make sure they are safe and treated fairly at work too.

To find out which union is right for you, or more information about joining a union:

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