

UNION STRONG - UNION ACTIVE TEAM

CWU Victoria Branch Election June 2023

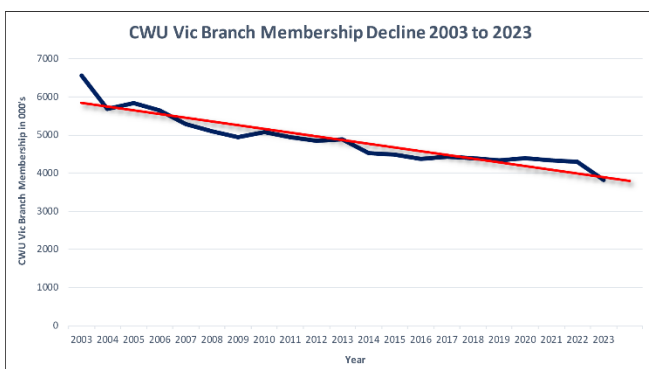
About 'Campaign 5000' - Our Plan to Grow Your Union!



CWU Vic P&T Branch 4 years of decline:

The CWU Victorian P&T Branch has had a dramatic decline in membership in the last four years and **in the last year the branch has lost over 400 members!** Now this is not unique to the CWU. Unions around the world as well as in Australia have undergone membership decline related to industry restructures and the laying off thousands of workers.

From 2003 to 2019 our branch of the CWU had the slowest rate of decline of all CWU branches and we had a very active and engaged membership. Since 2019 the rate of decline year on year has increased and between the last set of branch audited accounts in 2022 to April 17 2023 the branch has lost **466 members**.



We know that some of this loss is due to the pandemic, the speed up and intensification of work has made some workers take the decision to leave Australia Post due to stress and injury; but not all of the membership loss is due to those factors. We know many of our workmates have left the union because they are unhappy with the lack of action over many issues. Some have joined other unions; some just remain non-members.

If you want to keep an independent Vic Branch we have to get bigger!

Campaign 5000

What we will do to grow the branch:

The CWU Vic P&T Branch is still a sizable branch with 3824 members.

Union Strong – Union Active aim to grow to **5000 Members** from 2023 to 2027 if we are elected.

We will do this by:

- Encouraging the people who have left to re-join; we want everyone eligible to be a member of the branch to join;
- We will make it a policy of the union that if someone who has been employed in a Postal or Telco job for many years and they have chosen not to join the union then their fees will be higher; and in some instances depending on the issue they join with, if it takes up a lot of time, that time will have to be paid for. **It's not fair for long-term members to subsidise those who don't pay. No free rides.**
- We will pursue areas that we don't typically recruit in. There are many members we can ask to join the union under our rules, but at the moment we don't ask them.
- We will publicly support and join with other unions who are calling on the Federal Government to change legislation to allow unions to charge non-members a fee for benefiting from collective bargaining agreements. The price of an annual union membership would be lower than a bargaining fee with more benefits! **No one should be taking the benefits that others have paid for.**
- We will ask our existing members to get their workmates to join and we will work on campaigns together with our existing membership to build the strength of the union. The decline has to be stopped and we have to grow.
- We will modernise our IT & Communications systems to make it easy to join the union.
- Every quarter we will report to you how the branch is tracking in regards to our target of 5000 Members.