



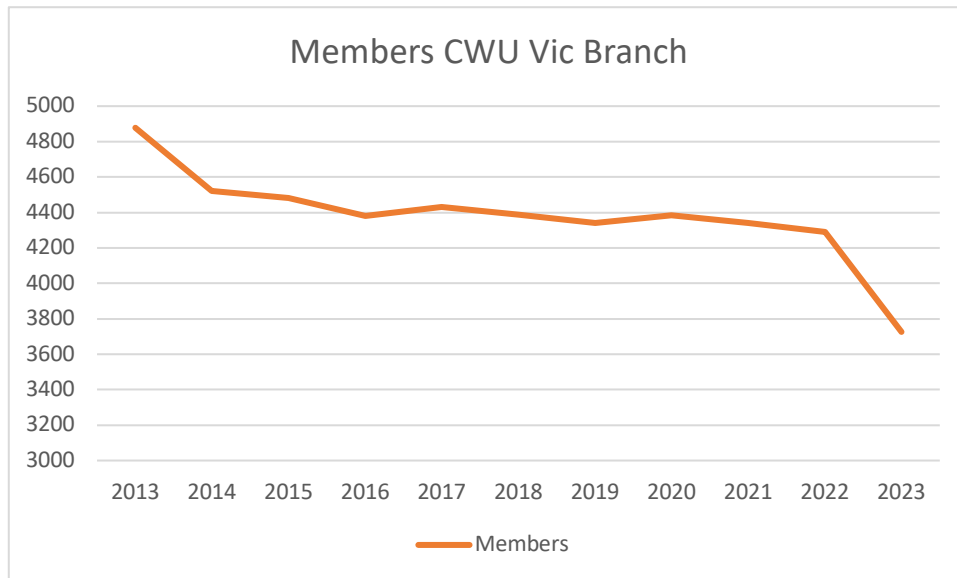
Terry Costello Candidate Statement

My name is Terry Costello. I am a PDO at North Melbourne Delivery Centre. I am running for the positions of President and Organiser in the CWU Victorian branch elections.

I have obtained Masters degrees in the Accounting, Finance & Communications fields. I also have the skills & experience as a rank and file unionist needed to assist in restoring the Victorian Branch of the CWU to being a democratic and organising union.

Since the departure of Joan Doyle from the CWU in 2019, the Victorian Branch of the CWU has clearly lost its way on a number of levels.

In the 2022-2023 Financial year alone the membership of the CWU declined by over 10% with the voters roll for this election consisting of only 3726 members.



The Finance report for the 2021-22 financial year was also sobering reading with the Victorian Branch of the CWU registering a deficit. Whilst membership revenue declined, double digit percentage increases in expenses and staff costs increased by more than double the national inflation rate at the time.

The Victorian Branch of the CWU has also clearly become a more undemocratic and less inclusive union in the last four years. For instance the Victorian branch of the CWU has since 2019

- regularly ruled that motions submitted for General meetings by members were 'out of order',
- held only one delegates meeting in 2022 which went for 13 minutes despite holding regular meetings with Australia Post about its Post 26 agenda. There have been no delegates meetings in 2023 so far
- prevented members from observing Branch Committee of Management meetings
- not had all key decisions of the branch ratified by its Branch Committee of Management which is contrary to the union's rules. The Victorian branch of the CWU's initial involvement in the lawyers picnic, otherwise known as the Asmar case was a classic example of this.
- has been subjected to an investigation by the Registered Organisations Commission

The union has also lapsed into adopting a reactive RACV type service model where there is little active organisation of workplaces.

If elected I, along with other members of the Union Strong Union Active team will adopt an organising model that will build power in workplaces and empower members to make a difference

- in their workplaces,
- in the union's decision making structures and
- in the decisions that the union makes.

Union Strong Union Active will also implement Campaign 5000 that will involve the union conducting a robust and strategic recruitment campaign that will aim to boost the union's membership to at least 5000 members by 2027.

Vote 1 Union Strong Union Active