

# VINNIES IGNORES STAFF VOTE AND GOES FOR NON-UNION AGREEMENT

ASU members and staff have overwhelmingly voted to endorse an Enterprise Agreement - but NOT the current Vinnies management Agreement. ASU members want an Agreement – a good Agreement – not an Agreement that cuts your conditions.

Despite the decision of members and staff in telling Vinnies to go back to the negotiation table and fix the problems with senior management's proposed Agreement, Vinnies today refused to negotiate any changes to the Agreement and **will now proceed with a NON-UNION AGREEMENT**. Vinnies has announced that it will send a NON-UNION AGREEMENT to a vote of staff from 30 March – 6 April.

## VINNIES USES WORKCHOICES TO AVOID NEGOTIATION

Yesterday Vinnies offered to “meet and confer” with the ASU today and demanded that the ASU agree to sign the current “agreement” by 5pm today.

“Meet and confer” is a discredited term arising from WorkChoices and has been used by employers as a mechanism to avoid negotiation. “Meet and confer” will be abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> July and replaced by a requirement to participate in Good Faith Bargaining.

In the “meet and confer” meeting today, Vinnies refused to negotiate on **any** of the problems identified by the ASU, **refused to make any changes** to the “agreement” and made it abundantly clear they would **proceed with a non-union agreement**.

## UNION REFUSES TO SIGN FLAWED “AGREEMENT”

Consistent with the decision of ASU members, the ASU will not be signing the Vinnies management Agreement.

- This agreement is flawed – it cuts many of your conditions
- This is a WorkChoices agreement

## **DON'T BE BULLIED INTO SUPPORTING A FLAWED "AGREEMENT"**

Members can now expect Vinnies to use every tactic, glossy publication and staff meeting available to convince you that Vinnies' management Agreement is a good Agreement.

Beware of:

- Glossy publications – a good agreement does not need a glossy brochure to promote its value
- People, like HR Managers, who are not covered by the Agreement telling you how good it is
- Propaganda that tells you that Vinnies has been forced to put out a non-union agreement due to the ASU's actions.

**A full outline of why members should vote NO to Vinnies' management Agreement will be with members shortly.**

## **DON'T BE DECEIVED BY MISINFORMATION**

The ASU has a very clear position in respect of the current proposed Agreement:

1. The ASU and its members clearly support an Agreement;
2. The ASU and its members know that an Agreement CAN improve wages and conditions.
3. The ASU and its members do not support the current proposed Agreement.
4. At no time has the ASU ever suggested that employees should not have an Agreement and should simply remain on the Award. Anyone who says so is engaged in a campaign of deliberate deceit and misinformation.
5. The ASU is a party to many Agreements that exceed the provisions contained in the Vinnies Agreement including agreements at Family Planning Association, Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre, Liverpool Women's Health Centre, Redfern Community Legal Centre, Uniting Care, Welfare Rights and many others.

*The question is not whether we have an Agreement, but a good Agreement.*

## **VOTE NO**

Please direct any questions or comments to Adrienne Vella, Organiser at the Australian Services Union on 9310 4000 or [adrienne@asu.org.au](mailto:adrienne@asu.org.au).