



United Voice, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland

Submission to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Holidays and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

14 October 2019

Introduction

United Voice, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland (United Voice) makes this submission to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee (the Committee) regarding the *Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* (the Holidays Amendment Bill).

Overview of United Voice, Queensland

United Voice represents almost 30,000 workers in Queensland across a range of public and private sector employers who are engaged in a diverse range of industries and occupations, and who remain under both the State and Federal industrial relations jurisdiction.

Our membership includes school cleaners, teacher aides, ambulance officers, health professionals and operational staff, childcare workers, those employed in the contracting industries, including but not limited to cleaning, security and hospitality, private prisons and detention centres and aged care workers.

United Voice has a long and proud history of advocating for and representing the industrial interests of our members whom are employed in a myriad of industries that operate continually 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year come rain, hail or shine.

Observing Christmas Eve (24 December) as a part-day public holiday

United Voice supports the objectives of the *Holidays Amendment Bill* to provide for Christmas Eve (24 December) to be observed as a part-day public holiday from 6pm to 12 midnight.

Irrespective of your calling in life, Christmas Eve is special and unique. For many of our members, it is a night they prefer to spend at home, with family and friends, out at religious services or other community events, or travelling to be with loved ones on Christmas Day. Often our members in pubs, clubs, aged care facilities, hospitals and our paramedics do not enjoy the sanctity, joy and quality time that Christmas Eve offers to so many.

Declaring a public holiday will recognise that the personal, social, religious and cultural significance of Christmas celebrations commence on Christmas Eve and so recognise the importance of that evening to spend time with family and friends and prepare for Christmas Day.

Conclusion

United Voice and our members support the objectives contemplated by the *Holidays Amendment Bill* as a measure to observe Christmas Eve (24 December) as part-day public holiday.