

UNITED VOICE QLD

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Ref:DP;mf
 16 June 2015

The Research Director
 Finance and Administration Committee
 Parliament House
 George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via E-mail: fac@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Farmer,

Re: United Voice Queensland Branch submission to the Finance and Administration Committee - Inquiry into the *Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*

United Voice, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland (United Voice) formerly the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Finance and Administration Committee (the Committee) in response to your letter dated 11 June 2015 inviting comment on the *Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* (the Bill).

United Voice represents almost 30,000 workers in Queensland across a diverse 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. We represent thousands of 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.

On 31 January 2015, the will of the Queensland electorate was clearly expressed. United Voice welcomes and supports this Bill as a vital step towards honouring the real Labour Day by restoring the Labour Day public holiday to the first Monday in May to its rightful place where it has been observed since 1891. The passage of this Bill abrogates the LNP government's shameless shift in 2013 of the Labour Day public holiday to the first Monday in October. We further support the movement of the Queen's Birthday public holiday to restore the balance of public holidays across the calendar year in alignment with other states.

Public Holidays



United Voice supports the movement of the Labour Day public holiday as proposed by this bill. The observance of Labour Day in May gives proper recognition to the struggles and achievements of the labour movement on a date of true significance. In the Queensland


tradition, Labour Day has been celebrated for over 100 years. Historically, Labour Day has been commemorated in May with the first Brisbane May Day march in 1893. In 1901, the Eight Hour Day was formally changed to the first Monday in May, when it was gazetted as a public holiday by the Queensland government. In 1912 the day was renamed Labour Day.

United Voice supports the movement of the Queen's Birthday public holidays as proposed by this Bill. This Bill restores the Queen's Birthday public holiday from the second Monday in June to the first Monday in October and reflects the then Labor government's movement of the public holiday in 2012. United Voice recognises restoring the balance of public holidays across the calendar year in alignment with other states delivering to every Queenslanders certainty, consistency and stability.

Conclusion

United Voice commends the passage of this Bill to the Finance and Administration Committee. The passage of this Bill is widely supported by the membership of United Voice and restores a tradition long observed and commemorated.

 
All correspondence should be addressed to PO Box 3948, South
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Branch Secretary