



SIGNAL SEVEN

April 15, 2019

First Aid Training Dispute in Fair Work Commission: ACT Government No Show

Solicitors for the UFU, (together with UFU representatives Ben Davis and Guy Cassis and ACT Branch Secretary Greg McConville), at 2.00 pm today appeared in the Fair Work Commission in relation to the first aid training dispute.

The ACT Government did not.

The UFU's application to the Fair Work Commission was made on 25 March 2019. A notice of listing was issued on 29 March for a Conference on 15 April at 2.00 pm. In between those dates, on 3 April. The ACT Government Solicitor wrote to the UFU's solicitors informing them who would be handling the matter for the ACT Government.

At 2.00 pm today, nobody had shown up to represent the ACT Government.

The Fair Work Commission made efforts to contact the ACT Government Solicitor, and at 2.30 pm were informed that a solicitor was on the way. At 2.37 pm, 2 solicitors arrived, and indicated that they had no instructions to act. (Note: The ACT Government Solicitor Office is in the building next door to the Fair Work Commission). The matter was relisted for 2.00 pm on 8 May 2019.

The UFU proposes to make application against the ACT Government for the award of costs, pursuant to the Fair Work Act.

Its not as if the ACT Government were not aware of our application. As early as 3 July 2017, UFU Solicitors wrote to the Head of the Act Public Service Kathy Leigh. There has been further correspondence and meetings since. UFU representatives signed dispute notices in relation to the issue on 31 August 2018, and the last dispute resolution meeting was held on 17 January 2019. As recently as 18 March 2019, ESA Commissioner Lane wrote to the UFU seeking that the UFU agree that the dispute was resolved, and stating that if the UFU did not reply, the ESA would be making application to the Fair Work Commission. The UFU made application to the FWC on 25 March.

There is simply no excuse for failing to participate in a Commission hearing which was to deal with critical training that is supposed to equip firefighters to deal with life threatening medical events.

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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