



Introduction

This policy seeks to provide guidance to members and staff as to how the Union's resources are to be used when called upon by individuals that seek to join the union while in dispute. The principle underpinning this policy is to ensure the income derived from union fees is spent on members who are committed to unionism and not on non-members who join the union for convenience purposes only.

This policy is based on the commitment of ASU Branch Executive and staff to providing industrial advice, advocacy and professional representation of the highest quality on the equal basis to all financial members

Policy

1. There will be no assistance to non-members, unless a special exemption is approved by the Branch Secretary. Such exemptions will only be approved in circumstances where it is in the best interests of the members in the workplace and must only occur with the endorsement of the delegate/s and/or members at the workplace. The opinions of whom must be sought by the Member Contact Centre.
2. In the first three months from the date of joining as a member, the new member will only be provided with advice and assistance to resolve an issue at a local level only. An exceptional circumstance would be if a member joined within two weeks of being employed, or in the case of a new member where a problem developed that required advice and/or assistance after the date of joining.
3. In the case of unfair dismissals, the Branch will only make application to Fair Work Australia once a person has been a financial member for 6 months or more.
4. Where a non-member seeks advice about an existing problem or a member seeks advice about a problem that arose prior to the time they joined the union, no assistance will be given, subject to the provisions of clause 6 below.
5. Where a person experiences an ongoing problem while a financial member of the ASU, but is no longer eligible to be a member of the ASU, the member shall continue to receive advice and assistance in relation to that problem.
6. In the interests of advancing the objectives of the union, a special exemption may be granted at the discretion of the Branch Secretary, whereby the above clauses may be waived in whole or in part.
7. Where an exemption is granted in pursuant to clause 6, a fee equivalent to 2 times the annual fee at the time of joining or rejoining shall be charged.
8. This policy will not apply to junior Apprentices or junior Trainees.

Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed after a period not exceeding three years. The Branch Secretary is responsible for overseeing the review.

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