

25 June 2014

BY EMAIL

Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House

Dear Prime Minister,

**SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE HSU**

I write to you as National Secretary of the Health Services Union (HSU). My responsibilities cease only upon the earlier of my resignation or the election of a new National Secretary.

It is my melancholy duty to:

- (a) inform you that the federally registered HSU continues to be affected by serious corruption, such that it has ceased to function effectively and there are no effective means under the Rules by which it can be reconstituted or enabled to function effectively; and
- (b) call upon the government, in the interests of the members of the HSU and in the public interest, to bring proceedings for a scheme of administration and the appointment of an administrator to the HSU.

On 30 May 2012 then Minister for Workplace Relations Bill Shorten used the resources of government to make application to the Federal Court for an administrator to be appointed to run the most power branch of the HSU. Minister Shorten claimed that the union had ceased to function effectively. Minister Shorten's administrator was duly appointed.

In many ways, the situation within the HSU is now considerably worse than it was then.

Shorten's administrator was appointed after my complaints to police about Michael Williamson and Craig Thomson. Notwithstanding the FWA investigation, police investigations and the conviction of Williamson and Thomson, the HSU remains intractably affected by corruption and flagrant misuse of power and neglect of the true interests of the members.

The internal situation is now dire.

The HSU is in the continuing control of persons who have enabled, facilitated and protected Williamson's corruption. To my knowledge, corruption and gross abuse of power is continuing uninterrupted within the HSU as I write.

This is not a situation that can await the findings and report of the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption before corrective action is taken to stop the ongoing abuses.

The union elections which are due to be held now will proceed with the membership in a state of ignorance as to the true state of affairs within the union and will be a travesty of democracy for reasons that I can explain in detail. I have received numerous expressions of concern from members about this state of affairs.

I consider that my fiduciary obligations to my members requires me to bring the ongoing internal dysfunction within the HSU to your government's attention and call upon the Executive government it to take action in respect of a union that enjoys the rights and privileges of a registered organisation under Commonwealth statute.

I have been committed to telling the truth and putting the best interests of the members before political considerations. However, I have neither the personal, mental nor financial resources to pursue the necessary application myself.

I request that the responsible Minister inform himself of the dysfunction within the HSU and makes an application for the appointment of an administrator to receive and manage the union's affairs, pending elections untainted by the influence of those who have cooperated in the stealing of so much from our members.

I am in a position to provide departmental offices and any lawyers the Minister may instruct with a compelling body of evidence to demonstrate the required 'dysfunction' in an overwhelming way. They can contact me by email to [hsunatsec@gmail.com](mailto:hsunatsec@gmail.com) or by phone on 0439 000 462.

I have copied this letter to the responsible Minister, however I have addressed it to you because it raises broader issues which appear to me to be matters for Government.

Yours faithfully



**Kathy Jackson**  
National Secretary  
Health Services Union

cc. Hon Eric Abetz  
Minister for Employment